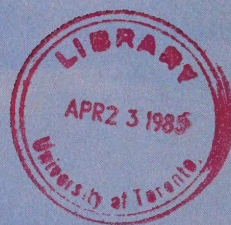


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# GUESTA

A Niagara Escarpment Commission Publication 1985





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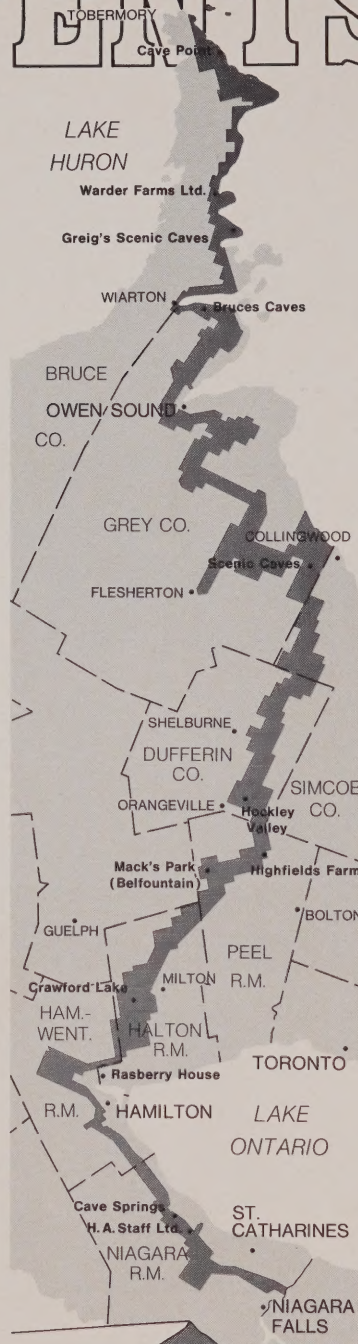
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Niagara Escarpment Plan  
Boundary .....

Front cover: Kathleen Wood

  
Ontario  
Provincial Secretariat  
for Resources Development

ISSN 0228-1589



**CUESTA**  
Originally a Spanish  
term meaning flank or slope  
of a hill, in geological terms means  
a ridge composed of gently dipping rock  
strata with a long gradual slope on one side, and a  
relatively steep scarp on the other

## From the Editor

Welcome to the ninth edition of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's information magazine, **Cuesta**.

In this edition you'll be introduced to the Hon. Ernie Eves, the newly appointed Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. We'd also like you to meet three farming families whose heritage is as old as Ontario itself; and Charles Mack, a philanthropist of the early 1900's.

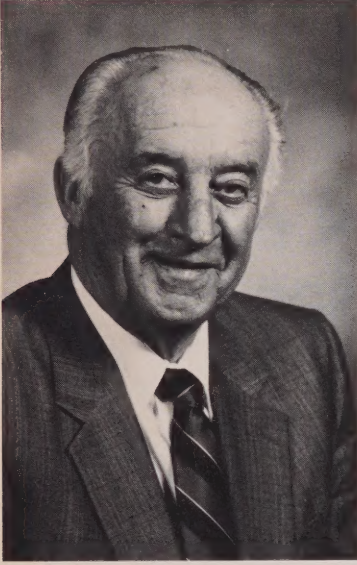
As is becoming a tradition with **Cuesta**, join us on a tour. This time we'll explore nodal parks in Halton Region, visit an Indian village recreated and a meromictic lake! For the history buff, we've presented some new insights into the remains of the warship, the H.M.S. Nancy. And not for the faint of heart, **Cuesta** will take us from the breathtaking heights of hot air ballooning to the depths of caving—both unique ways to enjoy the Escarpment.

And finally, **Cuesta** highlights David Adams who walked the Bruce Trail end to end; the Hockley Valley Improvement Association, a group of volunteers dedicated to enhancing and preserving their Valley; and Raspberry House, a new home for the Bruce Trail Association.

We'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Patricia Soper for her past dedication to producing **Cuesta** and for her contribution of articles for this edition. Also, a vote of thanks to staff who assisted, especially Bob Pepper, Senior Cartographer and John Novosad and Colin Mandy, Cartographers.

*Susan Herrold*  
SUSAN HERROLD

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## From the Chairman

I think that the high point of 1984 for the Niagara Escarpment Commission was the release by the Hon. Norman W. Sterling, Q.C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, of his recommended Niagara Escarpment Plan on July 31, 1984. It gave the Commission a great deal of satisfaction to note that the Plan included almost all of the policies recommended by the Commission one year earlier in its Final Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment.

In addition, the Commission was very pleased to note that the Minister had adopted the following Commission recommendations on the implementation

of the Plan:

- the continued use of the existing development control system;
- the delegation of the administration of development control to counties, regions and cities outside regional municipalities;
- the establishment of a \$25 million Niagara Escarpment Fund for acquiring land for the Niagara Escarpment Parks System;
- the establishment of a plan monitoring system; and
- a continuing role for the Commission.

In general, therefore, I think that the Minister's Niagara Escarpment Plan is a

fitting climax to the ten long years spent by the Commission in preparing a Plan; and the Minister has the Commission's wholehearted appreciation and support.

I expect Cabinet to approve the Niagara Escarpment Plan later this year. The successful implementation of the Plan will ultimately safeguard the future of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment corridor. 1984 was a good year!

Finally, on behalf of the Commission, I extend heartfelt thanks to the Hon. William G. Davis, our former Premier, for his consistent support during the past ten years. We wish him success in his future career.

Ivor McMullin, Chairman,  
Niagara Escarpment Commission





Provincial  
Secretary for  
Resources  
Development

Whitney Block  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Dear "Cuesta" Readers:

As the newly appointed Provincial Secretary for Resources Development and the Minister responsible for administering the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, I feel privileged to be associated with the worthwhile work and efforts of those interested in the Niagara Escarpment -- a natural resource of special significance in Ontario.

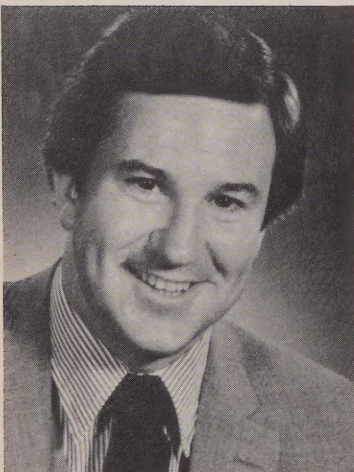
Last summer, my predecessor announced recommendations regarding the Niagara Escarpment Plan and requested viewpoints be submitted in writing. By the mid September deadline, over 350 submissions from municipalities, organizations and individuals had been received by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. These submissions are being considered by the Government in relation to the recommendations made last year by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development. When this task is complete, an approved Plan will be published and the implementation program will get underway. I am optimistic that those concerned will devote to the implementation process the same level of energy and care they dedicated to its preparation.

This edition of "Cuesta" highlights aspects of recreation and heritage on the Escarpment which are similar to the traditional characteristics of my own Riding of Parry Sound.

Although there are many diverse interests and concerns related to the Niagara Escarpment, I will be listening to as many viewpoints as possible in the weeks ahead in an effort to arrive at a Plan that is both acceptable and workable.

Yours very truly,

Ernie Eves, Q.C., M.P.P.  
Provincial Secretary for  
Resources Development





## The Provincial Secretary's Niagara Escarpment Plan

On July 31, 1984, the Hon. Norman W. Sterling, Q.C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, released to the public his recommendations regarding the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

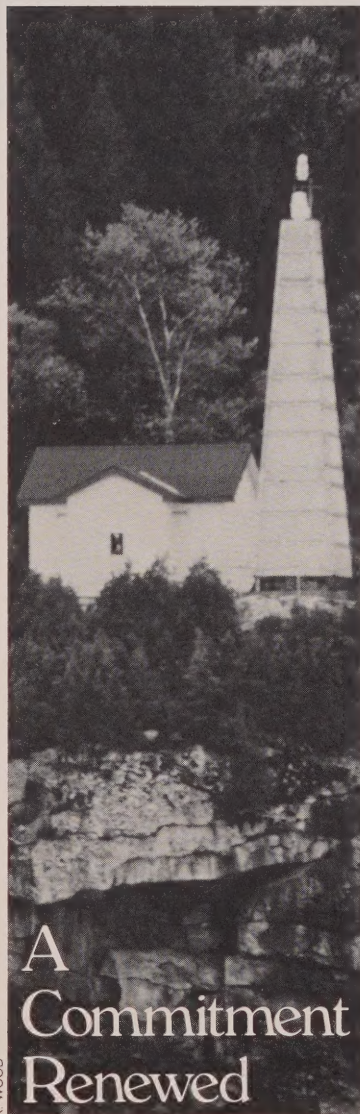
The recommendations were based on a year's careful study of the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Final Proposed Plan and the Hearing Officers' Report. As required by The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, the Minister gave public notice of the differences between his and the hearing officers' recommendations, thus allowing interested parties a legal minimum of 21 days in which to send written representations to Cabinet. Final approval of the Niagara Escarpment Plan now rests with Cabinet.

In making his recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the Minister saw his task as having to strike a balance between the desire for more activity and development along the Escarpment and the desire to conserve the Escarpment as a unique geographic feature. To quote the Minister: "If I have erred in my attempt to reconcile these conflicting interests, I have erred on the side of conservation." In so doing, the Minister adopted most of the Commission's Final Proposed Plan.

The Minister's Plan covers an approximate 1,824 square kilometre (704 square mile) area and affects 45 municipalities.

Highlights of the Plan include:

- three major land-use designations—Escarpment Natural Areas, Escarpment Protection Areas and Escarpment Rural Areas—with accompanying policies to apply to approximately 90 percent of the area of the Plan;
- policies for the creation of a Niagara Escarpment Parks System comprising 104 parks of which approximately 75 percent of the land is publicly owned;
- an acquisition program to be funded by a 10 year (\$2.5 million per year) Niagara Escarpment Fund to be ad-



ministered by the Niagara Escarpment Committee, a new subcommittee of the Ontario Heritage Foundation;

- a policy for the stabilization of the Bruce Trail through a consultative process involving landowners, municipal councils, the Bruce Trail Association and the Government of Ontario;
- policies restricting the opening of new pits and quarries to certain areas;
- policies supportive of agriculture and farming;
- provision for the delegation of the administration of the development control system to counties, regions and cities outside regional municipalities; and the establishment of site plan control and zoning under The Planning Act;
- provisions for the retention of the Niagara Escarpment Commission to administer the development control system until delegated to municipalities and to assist in monitoring the implementation of the Plan;
- provision for government ministries, particularly the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to play important roles in the implementation of the Plan. The Ministry of Natural Resources, for example, will be responsible for the development of the Niagara Escarpment Parks System, and the Ministry of Housing for reviewing and approving official plan amendments to conform with the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

The Commission has strongly endorsed the Minister's Plan. The general public reaction to the Plan has been very favourable, a sure sign that affected municipalities, agencies and individuals support the kind of compromise the Minister has achieved between development and preservation of the Niagara Escarpment area.

The Commission expects the Niagara Escarpment Plan to be approved by Cabinet later this year. ■





P. SOPER

# Spelunking

There's something about caves that triggers a deep response in the human psyche. Whether it is attributed to their mystique, their inherent beauty, or their potential danger, they attract or repel like lodestones. Although these uncharted recesses of the earth have inspired great music and revealed ancient wisdom, deep-rooted superstition precluded their exploration until the mid-eighteenth century. Only with the dawning of the Age of Enlightenment did it become even semi-respectable to venture into Hades' dark realm.

While most of us still prefer to speculate on what lies below from the surface, there are those who find themselves inexorably drawn to the earth's inner reaches. This spunky breed of explorers is known collectively as spelunkers—a name that traces its origin to the Latin word for cave, spelunca. Spelunking, the exploration of caves as a hobby or sport, is, therefore, the amateur pursuit of speleology.

While most surface-bound types could not be coaxed, cajoled or bribed into a cave, a few find themselves momentarily fascinated. Such tentative speculation is recognized as an unmistakable symptom of 'caving fever'.

And thanks to avid cavers like Tom Wolfe and Robert Lord, the fever is spreading relentlessly along Ontario's Niagara Escarpment. Both Wolfe and Lord are geography teachers within Ontario's secondary school system. Wolfe,

originally from Pennsylvania where he completed a doctorate in geology, currently teaches at Chinguacousy Secondary School. Lord, a native of England, studied geology at the University of Manchester and currently instructs at Clarkson Secondary School. Both men teach extra-curricular classes in caving to receptive Peel Region students as an extension of geology and geography courses. In part, the caving clubs reinforce what has been taught in class; however, the main focus is to impart the basics of cave exploration and have some fun doing it.

Naturally this strenuous activity demands a very select group and both clubs start out with hordes of interested and enthusiastic would-be spelunkers in September; however, non-cavers are quickly weeded out after the first underground foray. Wolfe contends that potential sport enthusiasts all exhibit very specific characteristics. "Generally," he notes, "the spelunker possesses a unique combination of physical strength and psychological stamina. A slight, wiry, deceptively strong frame is often the mark of a good caver and an obvious advantage in a tight squeeze."

While body-type is a factor, the mind-over-matter ability to remain calm in dark, confined and often uncomfortable places is a prerequisite. However, cavers agree that the most important quality, one which supersedes all others, is a healthy sense

of adventure. And within caving circles, the word is out that the limestone caves of the Niagara Escarpment offer not only adventure but variety.

The nearly unbroken chain of northeast facing cliffs and high ground known as the Giant's Rib extends over 725 kilometres from the Niagara River to the islands off Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, constituting a caver's treasuretrove. Composed of a mixture of Silurian dolostones and limestones, and offering great diversity of type, Escarpment caves are increasingly attracting groups like those taught by Wolfe and Lord.

Escarpment cave development has occurred only in areas of exposed bedrock or where glacial till was less than a few metres thick. And it is generally accepted that all southern Ontario caves have formed since the retreat of the Wisconsin glaciers some 12,000 years ago, therefore making them comparatively young in geological terms.

Young, maybe; boring never!

The Escarpment offers four basic cave types: crevice caves, sea caves, ice caves and solution caves. Each poses a unique set of challenges and demands a particular combination of caving skills.

However, regardless of the type of Escarpment cave chosen to explore, caution, skill and proper equipment are absolute essentials.

Spelunking gear is designed to offer



both protection and manoeuvrability. A few basics for tackling caves are: heavyweight, loose pants; hiking boots; well-treaded runners or even golf shoes; layered clothing on the upper body which allows for adjustment to temperature variations within a cave; and the indispensable hard helmet. Top this off with a carbide lamp attached to the front of the hard hat and, apart from looking like a Welsh miner, you're nearly set. The carbide lamp runs on carbide crystals and a few drops of water—you don't even need a match. But experienced spelunkers usually take one together with a couple of candles. Complete your kit with a climbing rope, a harness, some chockstones and carabiners and you are ready to tackle whatever comes your way. Of course, if you are really devoted to the sport and intent on exploring the more demanding cave systems, then rubber rafts, scuba equipment and other specialized equipment are *de rigueur*.

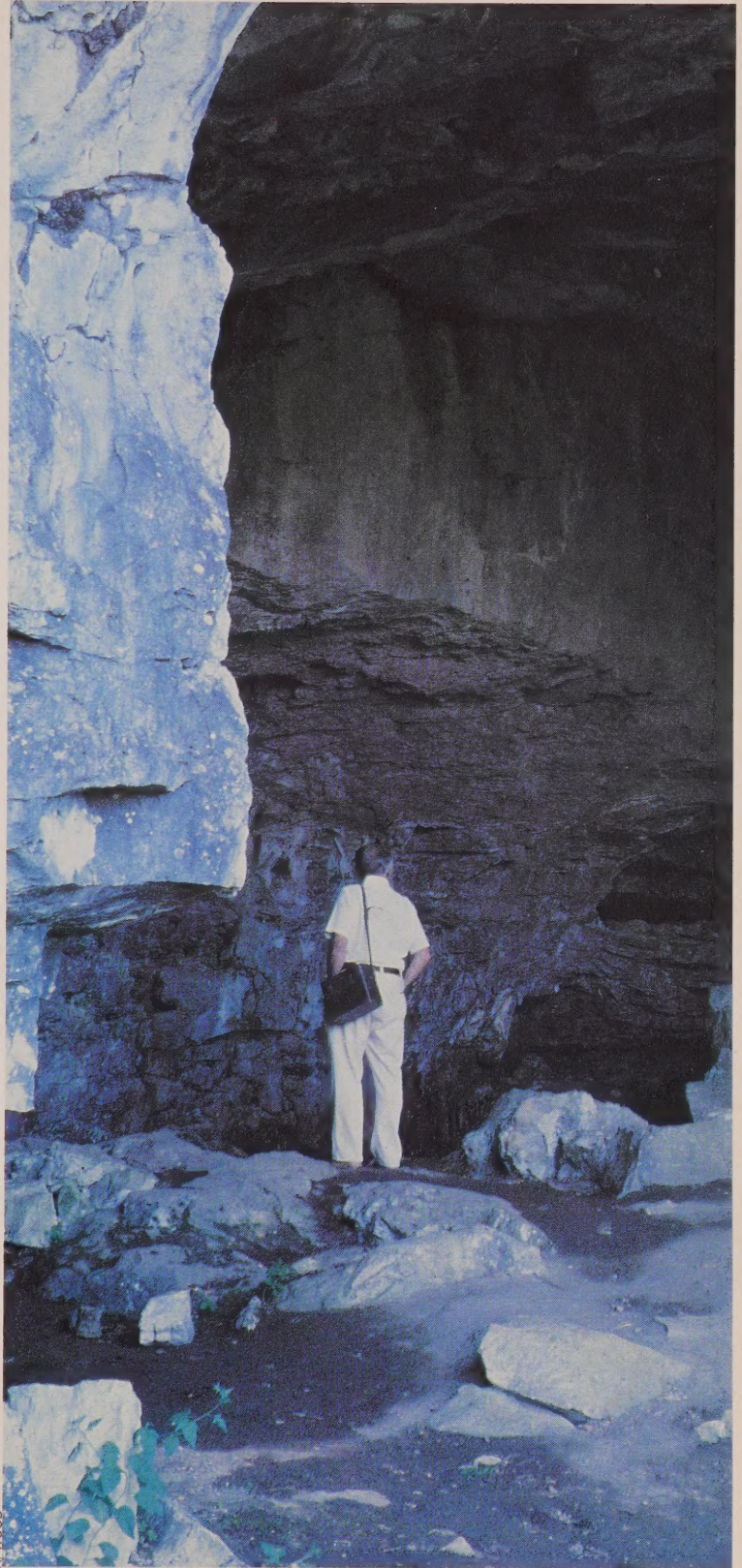
Along with the use and care of equipment, there are some fundamental caving practices that contribute to the safety of the sport. These basics are emphasized in pre-caving classes by both Wolfe and Lord and stressed during initial outings.

- The premier rule is **never** cave alone—a group of four is ideal.
- Respect gates, whether they are in the field or at the cave entrance.
- Always tell someone where you are going and when you can be expected to return.
- If the cave is privately owned, obtain permission from the owner prior to your visit.
- Make sure you have proper equipment in good working condition.
- Never go beyond your physical and technical capabilities.
- And for the sake of conservation, keep visits to a minimum.

Now you are almost ready to tackle any caving difficulty, but first it is necessary to learn some fundamental geology, because that too is an integral part of spelunking.

**Crevice Caves:** The great majority of Ontario's crevice caves are found along the Niagara Escarpment. These fissures are formed by the gradual breaking away of resistant dolostone caprock by a combination of erosional forces. In a process known as chemical weathering, naturally occurring carbonic acid, a mixture of carbon dioxide and water, penetrates and erodes existing fissures in the caprock. Beneath, the softer rocks, primarily shales and limestones, erode at an even faster rate. While the lack of supporting lower layers puts additional stress on the widening cracks in the dolomite, the freeze-thaw upheaval of the earth's surface compounds the effect.

Many vertical caves, which lead into solution cavities, abound with speleothems, decorative dripstone features,



K. WOOD

Greig's Cave





Bruce's Cave

making them particularly attractive to the geology buff. The spelunker may encounter cave coral, a more or less spherical calcite formation, and occasionally sheets of flowstone, a calcite covering usually found on the cave floor or wall.

Mount Nemo and Rattlesnake Point, favourite spelunking spots of the Clarkson Club, are characterized by this type of cave. Rattlesnake Point contains at least three well-frequented crevice caves. The major cave is multi-level and leads to a small chamber approximately 15 metres below ground. The Escarpment cliff Mount Nemo which is visible from Rattlesnake Point also contains several noteworthy caves.

These crevice caves, however, are not readily apparent to the uninitiated. A novice may not recognize what could be a first-class cave and the success of an expedition depends on the ability to recognize a potentially good cave and be adventurous enough to probe the inner reaches. Any unobtrusive surface opening may expand into a cave of considerable dimension and complexity. Some drop vertically over 30 metres or run parallel to the Escarpment face for more than 100 metres. In some corridors, the walls taper to an impasse, others angle down toward the Escarpment cliff and emerge unexpectedly several feet above the talus slope. The diversity of this cave formation and the challenge of the narrow crevice corridors, however, only serve to delight and challenge the dyed-in-the-wool spelunker.

Once committed to a cave, crevice spelunkers must be prepared to crouch, squirm, scrape and squeeze if they plan to move ahead. But if that is not your idea of a good time or if you are given to fits of claustrophobia, the Escarpment does have larger caves to offer.

**Sea Caves:** Without contest, the most spectacular cave common to the Niagara Escarpment area is the sea cave. Most prevalent along the Georgian Bay shoreline of the Bruce Peninsula, these caves conform to the popular notion of what a cave should be. So much so, that

Hollywood movie-makers used Greig's Scenic Caves, just southeast of Rush Cove, as a backdrop for the production of 'Quest for Fire'. These commercially operated caves overlooking Barrow Bay are huge: vaulting limestone arches form magnificent cathedral ceilings and lend a grandeur to a spectacular natural setting.

The Bruce Peninsula sea caves are post-glacial in origin, most having started as small solution passages that were enlarged by the pounding waves of glacial Lake Algonquin. Since the water level has dropped over 30 metres in the last 10,000 years or so, cave openings now nestle into the Escarpment face high and dry above the current shoreline. Tom Wolfe's Chinguacousy Club often frequents the sea caves of Cave Point, Cyprus Lake and Flowerpot Island.

Flowerpot Island, part of Georgian Bay Islands National Park, has several good examples of sea caves; however, written permission from the Park Superintendent must be secured prior to visiting these caves. For more information on caving permits write:

**The Superintendent  
Georgian Bay Islands  
National Park  
Box 28  
Honey Harbour, Ontario  
P0E 1E0**

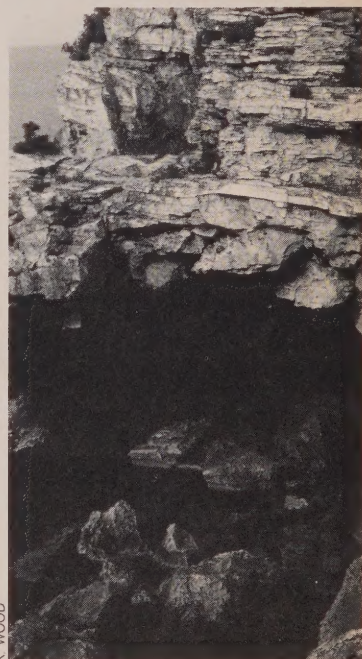
Many cavers would enthusiastically endorse the Chinguacousy Club's preference of sea caves over kidney-crunching crevice caves. Generally, a sea caver can walk in and explore on his feet—no need to risk bodily damage contorting a size ten frame through a size six corridor. Although the sea caves do not provide the gravitational challenge crevice caves are noted for, the caver learns to respect the hazards of the sport regardless of cave formation.

All serious cavers are adamant about understanding the geology of cave formation: the premise being that an informed caver can anticipate potential danger. They take pains to learn about karst topography which is prevalent in much of the Bruce Peninsula and the Wode-

house Creek area in Grey County. These limestone areas abound with sinkholes, sinking streams, springs and lakes. According to one of the student groups, the extensive St. Edmunds Cave System contains the longest sinking stream system in Ontario. It has been estimated that non-toxic dye placed in the water near Museum Cave takes between 57 and 72 hours to travel two kilometres to Little Stream Cave proving the existence of an underground system connecting the two locations.

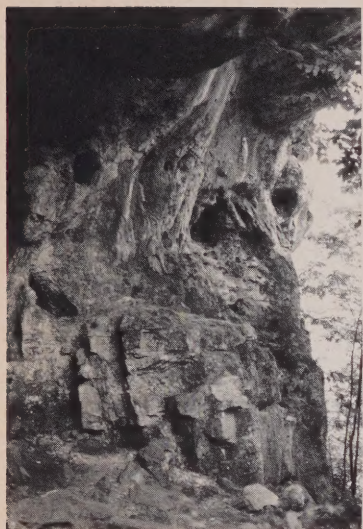
Less prevalent along the Escarpment are ice caves and solution caves, but the geologist/caver finds them irresistible.

**Ice Caves:** The true definition of an ice cave is one in which ice forms and persists throughout the year. One of the most famous Escarpment ice caves is found at the Scenic Caves, eight kilometres west of Collingwood near the Blue Mountains. This commercial enterprise has been a popular tourist attraction since the late 1800's. One of the several unusual caves is known as the Natural Refrigerator, a cavern which maintains a constant year-round temperature of four degrees Celsius. Another cave, known as the Ice Cave requires a descent of over 30 metres into a cavity, which even in mid-summer is covered in a blanket of snow. Another ice cave occurs at Cave Springs near Beamsville. It was nearly destroyed by a former owner of this unique Escarpment property in an improvident attempt to commercialize its storage capabilities. Standing before the nearly blocked entrance, the visitor can still feel chill air seeping through the piles of limestone rubble.



Grotto, Cypress Lake





K. WOOD

Keppel Township

Last but not least are **Solution Caves**. They are formed by the action of groundwater on limestone and are often referred to as part of the subterranean plumbing system. Rainwater percolating beneath the land surface eventually reaches a saturated zone—an area where all the cracks and pores are filled with water. Calcite, the main mineral in limestone, is barely soluble in pure water; however, the weak carbonic acid solution in rainwater does the trick and slowly excavates passageways. A second stage of cave development occurs after the water table lowers and strands the solution cavities in the unsaturated zone where air can enter. In a reversal of the solution process, calcite that has been dissolved in rainwater is deposited in a wide variety of dripstone features or speleothems. Most people recognize the terms stalactite and stalagmite, but how about cave coral, cave pearls, flowstone, drapery, soda straws and helictites?

Although Escarpment caves exhibit many of these features on a modest scale, caves untouched by the effects of glaciation are positively extravagant with them.

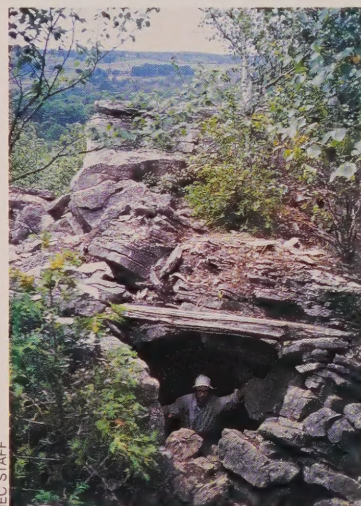
For instance, the massive cave systems of West Virginia, New Mexico and those recently uncovered in Latin America are typified by long winding passages and cathedral-like caverns carved out by underground water systems that existed long before the period of glaciation. Stalactites, stalagmites and other spectacular cave speleothems have had time to form into truly magnificent proportions.

In describing the West Virginia system, Tom Wolfe again underlined the necessity of knowing the geology of a cave. Wolfe emphasized that, "If you know the geology, you know what to expect." He continued to explain that one cave within this system contains a hot sulphur spring. Heat from the spring causes the release

of noxious gases into the atmosphere. This gas becomes trapped in poorly ventilated pockets or rock cavities and the only means of skirting disaster with this 'bad air' is to know what and where it is beforehand.

While this sort of knowledge is essential in avoiding potential tragedy, it will not prevent even an intrepid explorer from getting lost.

Wolfe managed to get himself separated from his party and disoriented in the aptly named Maze Cave. This West Virginia cave features countless passageways and dead-end corridors. At some point in the exploration, Wolfe realized that he was hopelessly lost. A less experienced caver probably would have reacted in panic, but Wolfe was confident that his knowledge of the cave type and geology in general would extricate him from his predicament. He began by locating the stream and discerning whether it flowed into or out of the cave. He sen-



NEC STAFF

Best Cave, Nottawasaga Township

sitized himself to the slightest draft, ascertaining the direction of air flow. In this emergency situation, he left unobtrusive marks along his path to ensure that he wasn't retracing his steps. Finally, after five tense hours Wolfe emerged, like Orpheus from the underworld, with a sigh of relief.

There is, of course, more to caving than a fascination with mere rock. The caver may also encounter unique lifeforms that have evolved independently of their sun-worshipping relatives. The deep interiors of caves provide an environment of total darkness and relatively constant climate to which many specialized forms of plant and animal life as well as micro-organisms have adapted. These ecosystems function on a delicate interdependency and are extremely vulnerable to ecological damage. Therefore, the conscientious spelunker recognizes that the maintenance of healthy cave ecology is among

his primary concerns: he is the intruder in this dark world and must tread lightly or not at all.

While Escarpment caves do not support the variety of life found in pre-glacial caves, they are not devoid of lifeforms. And these creatures are at risk when uninformed cavers intrude upon their habitat. For instance, bats, found in Escarpment caves, disturbed during the period of hibernation when blood-sugar levels are greatly reduced can die from a sudden change in metabolic rate. Currently, Halton Region Conservation Authority has a good working relationship with caving groups frequenting Rattlesnake Point and Mount Nemo where some rare bats are found. The Authority has future plans to map accessible caves in order to alert groups of cave characteristics and dangers. Together they are working to fully realize the cavers' motto: "Take nothing but photographs; leave nothing but footprints; kill nothing but time."

The conservation issue has definitely influenced how essentially unpublicized the sport has remained. While sports like windsurfing, parasailing and hot air ballooning have literally taken off, cavers have been quite content to lag behind. Seasoned spelunkers admit to a conspiracy of silence, reasoning: the greater the volume of traffic, the greater difficulty in preserving caving areas. Despite the guarded attitude towards expansion, cavers aren't overly concerned about a fad-like wave of caving popularity. After all, the very nature of the sport demands a unique person.

Man has always had an innate fear of darkness and the underground. Spelunkers are among the few who experience a thrill in facing and overcoming these fears; they are imbued with the spirit of the pioneer, and they find a challenge in entering another world. As Tom Wolfe explains, "My thrill is going where no one has ever been before." ■



NEC STAFF

Natural Cave, St. Edmunds



## Mack's Park

Charles Mack, who died in 1942 at the age of 83, was a visionary who invented the cushioned-back rubber stamp and turned a slice of the Niagara Escarpment at Belfountain into a small park whose manicured beauty has gained national acclaim. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's decision to restore and maintain the park as he wanted it is a tribute to the foresight of this proud, friendly, but sometimes aloof man.

Stating that it's 'possible for the Belfountain Conservation Area to be recognized for its historical significance', the Authority's Master Plan recommends that improvements to Mack's original stonework and landscaping be guided by historical documents and old photographs. While the Authority won't go so far as to resurrect Mack's house and two adjacent small residences, it has adopted goals similar to Mack's—to use the property primarily for leisurely walks and picnics.

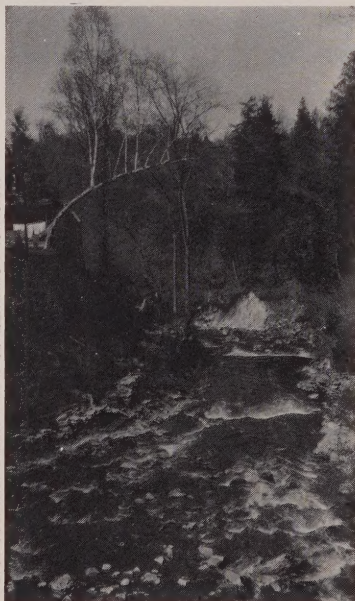
The Credit Valley Conservation Authority's proposals for Belfountain have undergone big changes since the first of its three master plans, by a Brampton consultant in 1969, urged spending \$230,000 in part for paving a walkway and parking lot and building a pavilion, picnic shelters, concession, washroom and maintenance building. If it hadn't been for tight money and a growing public love for raw nature, Belfountain's beauty—its cedar, spruce, pine, oak, maple and birch trees, the steep, limestone faces and the rushing West Credit River—might have been marred by man-made things.

Hidden in the majestic gorge on Belfountain's east side, the park is close to Mississauga Road about 30 kilometres north of Highway 401. Like many Credit villages, Belfountain flourished in the pre-electric, pre-concrete 1800's, when nearby quarries were supplying limestone to the hungry Toronto market. Now, it's a quiet place to live or a beauty spot to visit, particularly when fall colours of reds and oranges glorify its sheer hillsides.

Mack liked to be called 'Bluenose' because of his 1858 birthplace, Mill Village, Nova Scotia. From there, his family moved first to Maine, and then in 1877, to Toronto. Mack married school teacher Addie Underwood in 1891. His rubber stamp company, now owned by R.A. Stewart Co. of New York, continues to



Entrance to 'Yellowstone'—  
Mack's man-made cave (circa 1920)



Erin Branch of Credit River (circa 1920)

bear his name "because of Mack's prestige", says its retired manager Bill Edwards. Mack was one of the first Canadians to drive a car through the Maritimes. And he and Addie were also among the first to motor to Belfountain. Pressed to find a level place to pitch his tent, his imagination and inventor's mind were challenged. He bought 8.6 acres that year, 1908, from Angus Blair which was the beginning of his personal legacy—Mack's Park.

After Mack died his widow held the park for three more years. She died four years later, in 1949. The Authority purchased it in 1959, tore down Mack's old frame buildings, rebuilt the dam and suspension bridge, restored some eroded walls, bought adjoining properties and added trails and footpaths, a parking lot, washroom, changeroom and gatehouse. More than 20,000 visit Belfountain Park each year, the majority on bumper-to-bumper fall weekends.

Besides the Authority's planning controls, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Town of Caledon have imposed development restrictions because of Belfountain's special environment. One third of the park has slopes steeper than 30 percent. Another third is composed of the river and floodplain. The one acre (0.4 hectare) pond, formed by the dam, fills up with silt that must be removed each year. It can't be flushed out for fear of damaging downstream trout spawning areas. Because the park is close to the village, wildlife is not abundant.

Except for the money he spent on the park and a new car each year, Mack didn't flaunt his wealth. Thin, with large spectacles, moustache, dark complexion, and neatly groomed, bushy hair, he enjoyed walking, alone or with visitors, around his park. Wearing a white blazer or long-sleeved shirt and gray or white slacks, he was also fastidious about visitors' apparel, not permitting women to wear long pants nor men's chests to go uncovered.

Mack borrowed ideas for the park from things he had seen near and far. The falls were a miniature Niagara. He built a swing bridge below the dam, and put a bell atop a fountain, to honour the village. After he and Addie went round the world, they named their cave—with its concrete stalactites and stalagmites and little

PHOTOS COURTESY CREDIT VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY





*Dam and suspension bridge with Mack's house shown in upper right corner (circa 1920)*

dwarfs on its ledges—Yellowstone. Piped water dripped from the cave's ceiling. Over the years, he added stone walls around the pond, footpaths, scenic lookouts, a swimmers' changehouse and separate den and guesthouse.

Mack once described the 'den' he built for his books and guests: "the little den on the hill near the bungalow is perched on a high foundation. It has large windows and glass doors on all sides and there are no blinds or curtains. It is wonderful on a moonlight night, looking out on the water or trees and sky in all directions. No sound but the music of the little river which goes rushing by. The calm and peacefulness of it all would quiet anyone's nerves."

Having no children, the Macks needed only a small house, which they had built in 1909. Deep in the park, its full-length back verandah teetered over the gorge. A sort of back-split, people had to go outside to reach the bathroom on a lower level. The home had a few, big, comfortable rooms, a large stone fireplace, and a kitchen overlooking the river. Exotic shells and stones lined the window sills. The home had no basement except for a small storage room. Water for drinking and chilling the cooler was piped from springs in rocks on the south hill.

Mack hired former quarrymen who used heavy mallets and wide chisels to cut the layered limestone. He paid any good working man with two horses \$5 a day to pull a cart laden with stone found in and around the park to the work sites.

His fulltime and most skilled worker was Sam Brock, a tall, lean part-Ojibway who smoked a pipe. Mack's faith was tested the day he nervously agreed to allow Brock to explode dynamite under his house to shatter a large stone to clear the way to install a furnace. Mack did remove furniture so that if Brock blew the house sky high, at least he would save his furniture. The explosion hardly rattled a window. "No one could match Sam's work," says Stuart Scott. "A nicer man I've never

worked with." (Scott, 90, now of Bolton, worked at Mack's Park before fighting in the First World War.)

A 1938 *Star Weekly* report said, "Mr. Mack's ideas were sometimes fanciful but never too intricate for Sam to understand and execute. Mack frequently changed his ideas and then the work of several years had to be torn down and rebuilt." To meet Mack's demand for a special type of stone for the fountain, Brock had to carry it 500 metres "over a very rough and precipitous old trail". Brock was a carpenter, stone worker, and tended the flowers, strawberries and potatoes. He spent winters trapping and hunting and summer Sundays in his rubber boots in the river below the dam fishing for trout. Both Sam and his brother Charles, who also worked at times for Mack, died of 'stone cutter's consumption', a common ailment to men to who had worked in the dusty Forks of the Credit quarries.

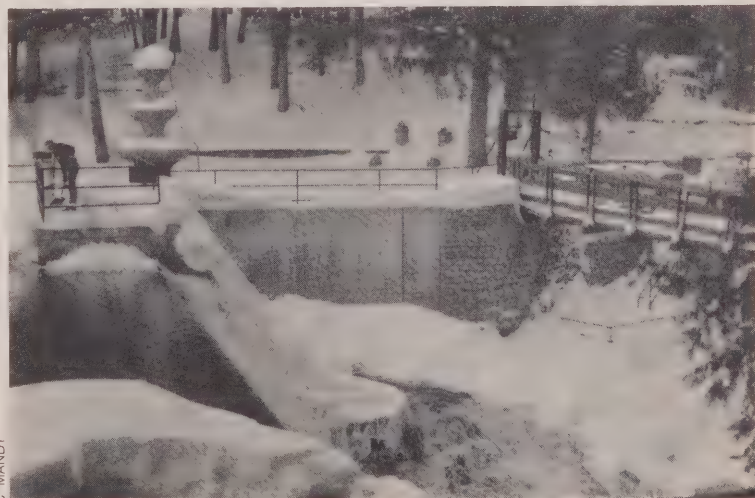
By today's standards, Mack would be a rarity. Instead of surrounding his estate with fences and guard dogs, he welcom-

ed the public, sometimes more than 300 strangers on a warm Sunday. Visitors included a prime minister, Indian potentate and governor general. People could have picnics, fish or swim. But the water was always cold. So cold, in fact, that some swimmers preparing for Lake Ontario competitions would come to Belfountain to train in the frigid water. Mack provided an area, now the parking lot, for baseball games, and at the time of his death was planning to build bleachers. He didn't permit overnight or rowdy parties, smoking, littering, and tearing bark off trees. He got angry when a hot dog stand was opened just outside his property.

Mack's niece Dorothy McCone of Toronto fondly remembers her month-long visits to Belfountain, starting in 1909 when she was 4 years old. She came back every summer until 1923. "I never saw my uncle angry," she says. "He treated me like a daughter, and was good to all of our family." Her younger brother Lloyd Nourse remembers travelling by train to the Forks of the Credit where his Uncle Charles would meet him. Mack taught the boy how to play checkers.

One cabin was given over to young working women from Kitchener and Toronto. Almost every fair summer day, the girls, Addie, Mack and his niece climbed in the car to sightsee or travel to Erin, Guelph or Orangeville to shop and buy ice cream. Mack sometimes invited villagers to see skits staged by his summer guests and moving pictures of his 1929 world trip.

Roy Trimble, who operated a village service station and repaired Mack's late model Packards, says, "Only a few of us are left here who remember Mack. He was an honest, frugal, and hard working man, enjoying a plain and simple life. Some of us kids stole his strawberries. Maybe we didn't appreciate him enough." ■



*Same view as above (1985)*

C. MANDY



# Escarpment Tour

Apply Orwell's formula for equality to the Niagara Escarpment Parks System and the result is—all parks are created equal, but some are more equal than others.

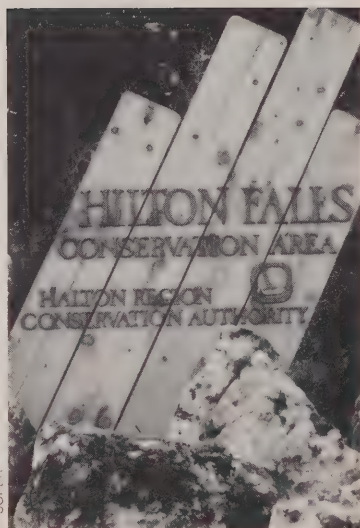
Of the 104 parks strung out in beaded splendour along the 725 kilometre Escarpment ridge, ten have been chosen to perform a vital and distinctive function. Designated in the Niagara Escarpment Plan as nodal parks, they have been earmarked to provide central interpretive facilities and key staging locations for surrounding Escarpment area parks.

This innovative approach to park development has also been labelled the cluster concept. One park in a group of geographically related conservation areas provides all the pertinent information on and central facilities for other parks in the immediate vicinity. The nodal park becomes the starting point from which to explore adjacent areas.

This method of park development enables specific segments of the Escarpment to be highlighted by supplying a mixture of trail recreation combined with related historical, cultural and natural interpretation. And as this part of Ontario has superb resources of natural, cultural and historical significance, the cluster concept also serves to maximize existing potential.

The Niagara Escarpment Plan designates ten nodal parks in key strategic locations throughout the Escarpment. These parks, managed by various agencies and forming the nuclei of the Niagara Escarpment Parks System, are:

- Cyprus Lake Provincial Park
- Skinner Bluff Conservation Area
- Inglis Falls Conservation Area
- Walter's Falls Conservation Area
- Pretty River Valley Candidate Provincial Park
- Mono Cliffs Candidate Provincial Park
- Terra Cotta Conservation Area
- Crawford Lake Conservation Area
- Dundas Valley Conservation Area
- Short Hills Candidate Provincial Park



P. SOFER

In addition, each park has been assigned a park classification based on the predominant characteristics of the property to ensure continued variety and diversity within the Escarpment Parks System. The six park classes are:

- Nature Reserve
- Natural Environment
- Recreation
- Historical
- Escarpment Access
- Resource Management Area

A prime example of the nodal park concept in operation is the Crawford Lake Conservation Area in Halton Region. Crawford Lake is a scenic jewel in an area renowned for its natural beauty, historic qualities and environmental significance and the ideal starting point for a **Cuesta** tour of surrounding park areas. Within a 9 kilometre radius of Crawford Lake Conservation Area there are seven widely different yet complementary park areas. Three major classifications—natural environment, historical and recreation—are

represented in this parks cluster. Take a day to familiarize yourself with this magnificent Escarpment area and you will find yourself drawn back time and time again.

From Highway 401 take the Guelph Line exit and travel south through the Village of Campbellville. This charming little village has maintained an 'old world' atmosphere by preserving its most interesting buildings—one of which was originally intended as an opera house when Campbellville was in its heyday. Campbellville is well known by antique hounds as it boasts several unusual antique shops. It is worth a stop here just to browse.

Continue southbound to the easterly extension of Steeles Avenue where the entrance to Crawford Lake Conservation Area is located.

### Crawford Lake/Rattlesnake Point Conservation Areas (Natural Environment)

Natural Environment Parks are characterized by their variety and combination of outstanding natural features, historical resources and outstanding landscape. These twin conservation areas within the watershed area of Halton Region Conservation Authority fit the bill to perfection.

The main goal of the Halton Region Conservation Authority has been to develop these adjacent park areas of approximately 377 hectares for passive recreational use within the limitations imposed by site, topography, ecology, history and natural resources.

In Crawford Lake Conservation Area the main emphasis is placed on the development of the area to offer a variety of educational and recreational opportunities while preserving the woodland and lake areas in their natural state.

Crawford Lake Conservation Area, while still in a primary stage of development, contains a gatehouse, an interpretive centre, an archaeological site and



a partially reconstructed Indian village.

Activities on the site include picnicking, hiking, orienteering, nature study and observation, historical study, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Crawford Lake Conservation Area has so much of interest to offer you could easily spend the entire day, but, if your intent is to sample the Region's overall beauty, pick up some information at the interpretive centre, take a quick walk around the lake and get back in the car.

Continue southbound on Guelph Line to Derry Road. Turn left and travel eastbound to Appleby Line. Turn left again at Appleby Line and continue north to the entrance of Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area.

Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area abuts Crawford Lake Conservation Area and offers breathtaking vistas over the Nassagaweya Canyon. Rattlesnake Point is part of the Milton Outlier, a detached piece of the Niagara Escarpment that rises 91 metres above the surrounding countryside. This property is ideal for leisurely hikes and quiet picnics. Rock climbing enthusiasts can be seen scrambling up the sheer limestone Escarpment face while less ambitious types are relegated to exploring forest trails. Rattlesnake Point is also the location of a fairly impressive buffalo herd. The sight of these shaggy ruminants stamping and snorting at the bottom of the cliff somehow completes the rugged setting and also serves as an incentive to the climbers to stay up!

Having had an opportunity to observe the outstanding beauty of these natural environment areas first-hand, you will realize why they were chosen to become key parks in the Niagara Escarpment Parks System.

Within easy driving distance of these contiguous areas lie six remaining cluster parks, each offering a unique experience.

Continue northbound on Appleby Line. As you reach the Village of Christie, abandoned limekilns can be observed to your right, mute testament to the Escarpment's industrial past. Continue to Regional Road 9, to your right a sheer Escarpment promontory rises above Kelso Lake. Although Kelso Conservation Area is not our next stop on the tour, this is the best opportunity to get those once-in-a-lifetime photographs. With any luck, resident turkey vultures will co-operate and make a free-wheeling appearance.

Turn left on Regional Road 9. The entrance to Hilton Falls Conservation Area is to the north, just past the Fifth Line.

### **Hilton Falls Conservation Area** (Natural Environment)

This 952 hectare area includes the Sixteen Mile Creek and spectacular Hilton Falls. The property is jointly owned by the Halton Region Conservation Authority and the Regional Municipality of Halton. The area was named after Edward Hilton,



P. SOPER

*Kelso Conservation Area*

the first of a number of pioneers to build and operate a mill at the base of Hilton Falls. Last in operation around 1863, the ruined mill is still evident to those hiking on the extensive trail network. Other scenic features include part of a spectacular Escarpment outcrop, Halton Forest, extensive beaver meadows and a 14 hectare water reservoir.

Hilton Falls Conservation Area is part of the largest forest complex in the Halton Region and as such provides an excellent wildlife habitat—white-tailed deer, beaver and a rare species of butterfly can be observed.

Hilton Falls is a mecca for hikers and cross-country skiers with more than ten kilometres of trails offering outstanding scenery.

Return to Regional Road 9 and proceed east until reaching Town Line 22 (Tremaine Road). Turn right and travel south to Regional Road 28; turn right to the entrance of Kelso Conservation Area.

### **Kelso Conservation Area** (Recreation)

Those parks designated Recreation offer some of the best recreational environments to be found along the Escarpment. Kelso Conservation Area has been so designated and a casual glance will tell you why.

This year-round 235 hectare property is resplendent with recreational opportunities. There's swimming in Kelso Lake, a 32 hectare reservoir nestled at the base of towering Escarpment cliffs. The lake boasts a fine sand beach which is usual-



P. SOPER

*Kelso Lake*

ly festooned with windsurfers. Sailboats, paddle-boats, canoes and the ubiquitous surfboard can be rented from the Authority. But if simple swimming is your preference, the conservation area also has an outdoor pool. Group camping is available by reservation and the lake is stocked with rainbow trout for the fishing enthusiast. Picnic areas, a playground and hiking trails round out the summer fun.

Winter activities focus on the Glen Eden Ski Area with its vertical drop of 75 metres and a ski-run length of 610 metres. Add to this, spectacular scenery, snowmaking equipment, rentals, snack bar and ski patrol and it is obvious why this area is in such demand when the temperature drops. Cross-country enthusiasts are welcome to use the park trails.

An integral part of Kelso Conservation Area is the Halton Regional Museum which provides historical interpretation of the 'way it was' in Halton.

The small complex features six historical buildings fronted by a farm pond. The museum displays are wide-ranging and most are contained in the original barn of the Alexander farm. A carriage house, 1830 log cabin, a blacksmith shop and a craft house complete the collection.

Museum hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays and from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. There is an admission fee. Group tours can be arranged in advance by telephoning (416) 878-3232.

And if you are still in an historical frame of mind, the next step on the tour will be to your liking. Return along Tremaine Road toward Regional Road 9. Before reaching the regional road, signs will direct you to the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

### **Ontario Agricultural Museum** (Historical)

Historical parks are intended to protect and interpret the distinctive resources representative of the Escarpment's archaeological and historical heritage.

This 32 hectare parcel was acquired by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in order to display artifacts of Ontario's agricultural heritage. With an initial collection of farm equipment, machines and tools from Charles Matthews of Langstaff, Ontario and the co-operation of donors throughout Ontario, the museum officially opened in 1979.

This interesting complex enables the visitor to explore the rural past and walk through more than 30 reconstructed farm-related buildings. Displays reflect changing patterns in the rural lifestyles of Ontario's agricultural history.

The museum is staffed by people knowledgeable in skills that were once essential to the farming community. The visitor is invited to chat with the farmer, blacksmith and weaver as they go about



their daily tasks. Special programs allow you to relive the old threshing days, or taste bread baked in the open hearth of a pioneer kitchen. Extensive educational programs and special events are offered to student groups and the public alike.

The Ontario Agriculture Museum is open from May to October, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. School programs are in operation from April to November, Monday to Friday. For further information contact:

**Ontario Agricultural Museum**  
P.O. Box 38  
Milton, Ontario L9T 2Y3  
Telephone: (416) 878-8151

Three other small conservation areas complete the Crawford Lake cluster. These parks are adjacent or close to those already mentioned and can be visited or noted during your stopover at those other parks.

#### **Crawford Forestry Tract** (Natural Environment)

This 123 hectare property is owned jointly by the Halton Region Conservation Authority and the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Located west of the Guelph Line across from Crawford Lake Conservation Area, this forestry and geologic area contains a fossilized waterfall. This property is primarily used for hiking.

Abutting the Crawford Lake Forestry Tract is the smaller Yaremko-Ridley Park.

#### **Yaremko-Ridley Park** (Natural Environment)

This 70 hectare jointly-owned natural environment park contains Escarpment forest and a small lake. Most of the property (50 hectares) was donated to the Ontario Heritage Foundation by John Yaremko, former provincial Solicitor General and John Ridley, Chairman of the Quetico Foundation. Under the Foundation's Trust Program donations of scenic lands as well as donations of heritage buildings and other cultural properties can be accepted.

The final Escarpment conservation area on our tour is Mount Nemo.

#### **Mount Nemo Conservation Area** (Natural Environment)

Mount Nemo, also part of the Milton Outlier, is located south of Crawford Lake and the Village of Lowville on the east side of the Guelph Line. This 98 hectare property contains a prominent Escarpment bluff used by rock climbers, spelunkers and hikers. An abandoned quarry, farm fields and forest reserve constitute the majority of the land.

Although **Cuesta's** tour has only highlighted a 95 square kilometre section of the Niagara Escarpment Parks System, the wealth of recreational opportunities is readily apparent. And the Crawford Lake cluster of parks within the Region of Halton is only one of ten such examples strategically located along the entire

length of the Escarpment.

A parks system of this scope did not materialize overnight; it took dedication, foresight, not to mention perseverance on the part of those involved. The initial goal was to preserve where possible, conserve at all times, and carefully plan for the multiple use of Escarpment park areas. There can be no doubt that this challenge has been successfully met.

Since the late 1960's when the Ontario government made the acquisition of Escarpment lands a priority, approximately 26,929 hectares have been purchased and held in trust by various agencies and ministries for public use in what is now the Escarpment Plan area. That original government commitment was reaffirmed with the July 1984 release of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. In that Plan a further 3,700 hectares of distinctive Escarpment property have been proposed for acquisition excluding 4,672 hectares in Bruce County that are currently the subject of negotiation by Parks Canada for a future national park.

The Plan has done much to allay landowner concerns by clearly stating that acquisition of Escarpment property will only occur as land becomes available and only if an owner expresses a willingness to sell. The efforts of private landowners to preserve and enhance Escarpment property have been acknowledged and the continuation of such stewardship has been endorsed.

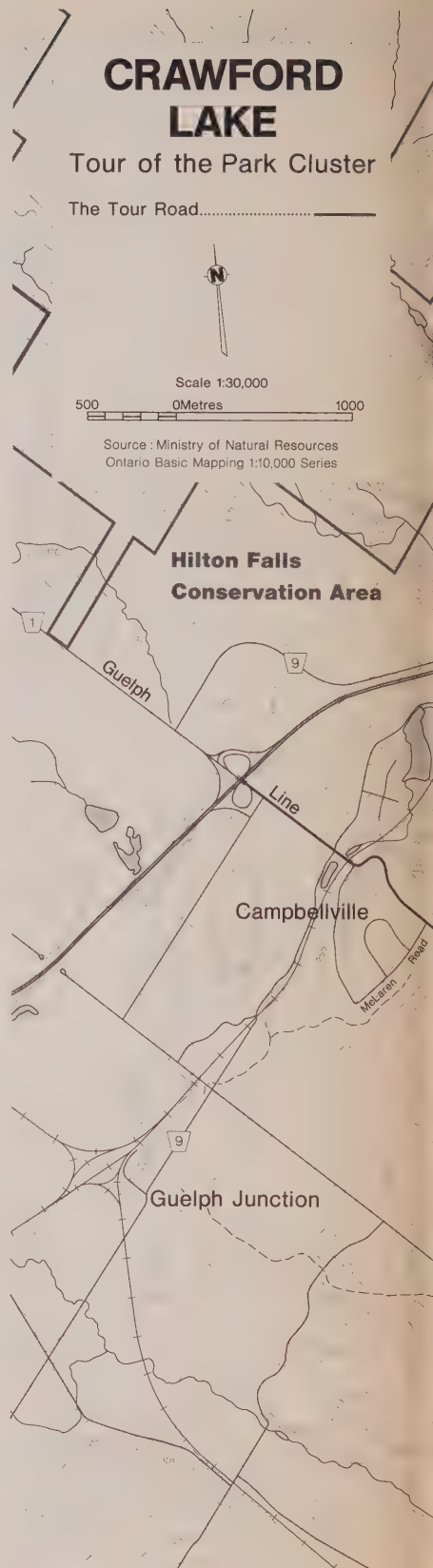
While initial acquisition has done much to preserve the Escarpment for future generations, the long-term protection of remnant Escarpment features is seen as a team effort. Future acquisition to maintain open space will require the combined resources of public, private and voluntary interests. As a committed partner in this endeavour, the Ontario government has pledged to establish a \$25 million Niagara Escarpment Fund.

And as the Escarpment is recognized as a significant part of Ontario's natural heritage, the Ontario Heritage Foundation has been recommended as the guardian of this future preservation. To that end, a special committee of the Foundation, the Niagara Escarpment Committee, is to be established to administer the fund and a program for accepting donations and acquiring rights in Escarpment heritage properties.

Opportunities for Escarpment recreation along the Giant's Rib are plentiful now. In the future, they will be as limitless as your imagination—come and explore secure in the knowledge that the best is yet to be.

For further information on conservation areas within the Halton Region contact:

**Halton Region Conservation  
Authority**  
310 Main Street  
Milton, Ontario L9T 1T4  
Telephone: (416) 878-4131 ■









## Crawford Lake

When the Niagara Escarpment Commission first envisioned a parks system stretched along the Escarpment spine preserving its most distinctive features, they had no idea that one of the 104 designated parks would become the site of an archaeological excavation of world-class significance.

But then again, neither did Dr. Jock McAndrews when he began studying Crawford Lake in 1971. McAndrews spearheaded a study into the thermal and chemical properties of the lake and the formation of surrounding geology for the Royal Ontario Museum. He concluded that the lake was highly unusual—in fact, so unusual that it was meromictic. In layman's terms, this meant that because of a small surface area in conjunction with extreme depth, lower water levels were left undisturbed by wind, temperature change and even minute aquatic creatures. This phenomenon, known as meromixis, also ensured that there was little oxygen present below a depth of 12 metres. In the absence of oxygen the bacterial breakdown of lake sediment was slowed almost to a halt.

Crawford Lake, located south of Campbellville on the east side of Guelph Line, was, in effect, a geological and archaeological time capsule: the perfectly preserved lake sediments concealed a stratified historical record that would eventually prove more accurate than radio-carbon dating.

But in 1971, Crawford Lake only offered a series of enigmas that fascinated and frustrated McAndrews' team of researchers. Initially, the lake depth of 24 metres was the subject of much geological speculation as this part of Ontario was not noted for inland lakes of such depth. McAndrews theorized that the lake was probably formed some 15,000 years ago during a period of glacial retreat and accompanying run-off. The abundance of rushing water gradually created cavities



*Crawford Lake shoreline*

K. WOOD





Dr. Bill Finlayson

P. SOPER

in soluble limestone. When these solution cavities reached considerable size, the dolostone surface or roof collapsed to form a sink or karst hole. A detailed investigation of the surrounding area substantiated this theory: southwest of the lake in the direction of water run-off is a fossilized waterfall that has been dry for at least 12,000 years, and northwest of the lake along the ancient stream bed there is substantial evidence of karst topography.

Although McAndrews had solved the geological riddle, it wasn't until he perfected the 'frigid finger' to take samples of sediment from the lake bottom that he ran smack into the archaeological one. While conducting routine pollen analysis of the sedimentary layers, the team encountered evidence that pinpointed two episodes of human disturbance in the area surrounding the lake. The most recent disturbance had occurred from 1846 to 1851 and could be attributed to European settlement; however, an earlier disturbance dating from 1290 to 1610, which exhibited heavy concentrations of corn pollen, particularly between 1434 and 1459, could not.

One member of the team, Dr. Roger Byrne, made the connection between the presence of corn pollen in the sediment and the probable location of an archaeological site adjacent to the lake. His deduction was based on the fact that wind-borne corn pollen only travels a short distance from the parent plant; therefore, the search area logically would be limited to the immediate vicinity.

It was reasoned that the most likely candidate for an Indian village was the most defensible position. Therefore, the team zeroed in on a knoll to the northeast of the lake that had just been purchased by the Halton Region Conservation Authority as part of a Niagara Escarpment acquisition program.

Under the direction of Dr. Bill Finlayson, Executive Director of the Museum of Indian Archaeology, an archaeological excavation funded through grants from

the Canada Council and the Ontario Heritage Foundation got underway. Exploratory trench excavations indicated that the Halton Region Conservation Authority had purchased a natural cultural resource of exceptional importance. Armed with Finlayson's report, the conservation authority marshalled its resources with military precision and set out on a course of action aimed to preserve and, at the same time, carefully develop this unique Escarpment property.

A fortuitous partnership was formed between the Halton Region Conservation Authority and the newly formed Halton Region Conservation Foundation to provide sufficient funding for the preservation of this natural and archaeological treasure. An innovative and comprehensive master plan was revealed on October 24, 1981 with the official opening of the Crawford Lake gatehouse built with funds from an initial \$15,000 donation from the G. Allan Burton family. At that time, the two year target for the Foundation was to raise an incredible \$700,000. And according to Louise Hebb, Chairman of the Halton Region Conservation Foundation and dynamic force behind the fund-raising efforts, that campaign goal is within sight. More than \$522,000 had been raised when the Crawford Lake Indian Village and Conservation Centre was officially opened to the public by the Hon. John Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, on September 9, 1984.

Today, even in its preliminary stages of reconstruction, Crawford Lake Indian Village exudes a sense of the past and of a people who lived in harmony with the rhythm of the seasons. In this authentic reconstruction of a fifteenth century Middleport settlement, one longhouse has been completed to precise measurements on the exact location of the original. And although it is one of the smaller longhouses those dimensions are

an impressive 26 metres long, 8 metres high and 8 metres wide. Walking into this smoke-caked vaulting structure, the daily lives of the Middleport people who lived over five centuries before is palpable. Sleeping platforms arranged in family groups are covered with soft fur, corn and herbs dry in the lofty rafters, while around four fire pits clay pots brim with the earth's bounty. Digging tools have been left leaning against the wall, as though dropped in haste by Middleport women rushing to greet hunters returning with a deer kill. The link with yesterday cannot be denied and it is this tangible melding of past and present that makes the Crawford Lake site so unusual.

Crawford Lake is one of only three successful attempts to reconstruct an authentic Indian village. Others in this elite group are Lawson Prehistoric Indian Village in London and Ste. Marie-Among-The-Hurons in Midland where warring Iroquois bent on genocide took their final revenge on the Huron nation and the Jesuit priests they sheltered. Settlement reproductions, as opposed to these painstaking reconstructions, are far more common. Although educational and often successful tourist attractions, reproductions involving the construction of longhouses and palisades often pay less attention to authenticity and are not on the original archaeological site. In contrast, the aforementioned reconstructions have tried to incorporate every detail of the archaeological dig. As a result, each village is faithful to its original.

Yet even among this select group of reconstructions, Crawford Lake is in a class by itself. By integrating cultural and natural elements, the Halton Region Conservation Authority has preserved a lost heritage, set it in a magnificent Escarpment setting, and provided an innovative educational and interpretive program.

Visitors to the site are encouraged to



Construction of longhouse

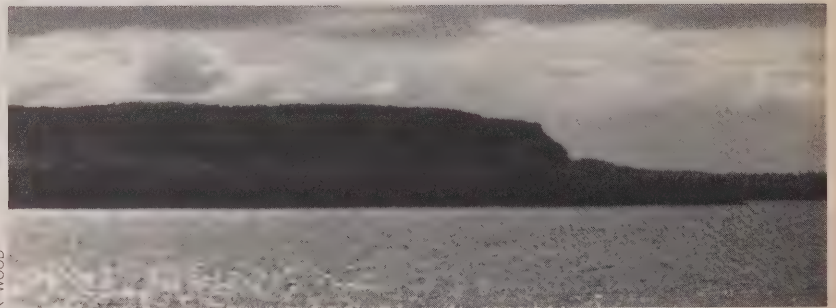
P. SOPER



# NIAGARA ESCARPMENT PARKS SYSTEM



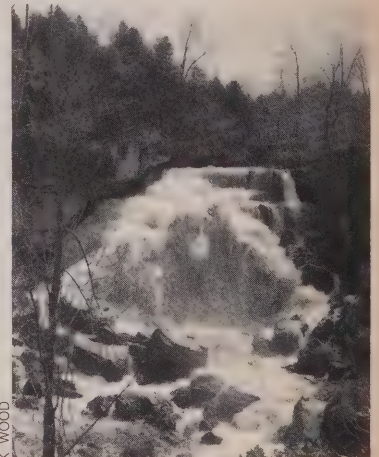
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Georgian Bay shoreline, Bruce Peninsula



Flowerpot Island, tip of Bruce Peninsula



Inglis Falls, south of Owen Sound





Forest near Belfountain



Comfort maple, Fonthill



Tiffany Falls, Ancaster



Ball's Falls, Lincoln



Geography, Crawford Lake





wander through the authentic longhouse, view the skeleton framework of another or join in any number of ongoing live exhibits such as hands-on lessons in archaeology. Interested visitors can dig up pre-prepared one metre square sections of earth and put the ensuing dirt through a sifter to separate artifacts and experience the joy of discovery.

Adjacent to the village, traditional Indian crops are grown. Mounds of corn, beans and squash are planted together in a symbiotic relationship—corn withdrawing nitrogen from the soil while the bean plant replenishes it. The public will be encouraged to take part in the planting, care and eventual harvest of these crops.

In conjunction with the village activities, a variety of self-guided trails is offered, each emphasizing different aspects of the area. The Crawford Lake Trail is a 1,400

have been named in honour of major benefactors of the fund-raising drive. Special plaques noting the contributions of the Burton Charitable Foundation, the Robert Bateman family and the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows have been placed in the Centre which also houses a museum, classrooms, a resource library and an auditorium.

While the Crawford Lake site is taking shape nicely, there is much that remains to be done. During discussions with Dr. Finlayson it became apparent that his archaeological activities are far from over. Although his team has uncovered tremendous amounts of information there is still a great deal more to be discovered.

Currently there are nine known longhouses in the village ranging in length from 25 metres to 45 metres. Six were discovered in 1973, the first year of excavation, and the remainder were un-

dered into a utensil usually synonymous with warfare were discovered in the excavated longhouse. Both would indicate that some warfare was occurring at the time although not at the level to which it would eventually escalate.

"It was more likely," suggested Finlayson, "that the Crawford Lake settlement was set back from the warring frontier and in the event of an attack, the villagers would have retreated to neighbouring palisaded settlements."

While the trenching technique used in these excavations offers a revealing cross-section of what's on the site and indicates where to dig further, it often produces areas of confusion. When excavation crews uncovered an unusual overlay of building perimeters and an unexpected dividing wall in one longhouse, they weren't sure what they had found. The puzzling finds could be the result of



Indian Village display

metre tour along a boardwalk encircling the lake. The Heritage Trail offers a 2,100 metre journey through the history of human habitation at Crawford Lake from the Middleport village to the twentieth century. A 2,500 metre Escarpment Trail links with the Bruce Trail revealing the wealth of natural heritage in the surrounding region. Lastly, the Orientation Trail provides an overview of the entire area with a 1,200 metre walk that briefly touches important parts of the other three trails.

Complementing this activity, a new interpretive centre provides a general introduction to Crawford Lake. Through exhibits, visual aids and interpretive lectures, visitors gain a better appreciation of the complexity of the area before setting off to explore specific sites. Three areas within the Crawford Lake Centre

covered during the past three years. Approximately 450 people are thought to have occupied these structures. Finlayson estimates that his work on the site will be completed in a year and will fill in unknown details about the Middleport lifestyle. Up until now, the trenching technique has only provided tantalizing clues as to what may yet be discovered. Two years ago the team cut trenches around the site, hoping to find a palisade wall. What they found was a short row of post remains, but no full palisade. Finlayson noted that it was unusual to find a village of this size unprotected. Yet he doubted that this lack of protection was an indication that the Middleports were at peace. Indeed, other finds on the site would indicate otherwise: the lower half of a human arm, undoubtedly a trophy of war, and a skull that had been fashion-

several different occupations of the site or due to the rebuilding of structures burned down in an enemy attack. But until further investigation, none of these scenarios is certain. As Finlayson explained, "The trenching technique is useful in revealing something tangible about an area, but you cannot learn everything this way. You really have to excavate totally to get the complete picture of how many houses there are and how they relate to each other." He plans this total excavation of the Crawford Lake site for the summer of '85.

However, this final dig will not sever Finlayson's association with the Crawford Lake area. Outstanding discoveries at the site have provided a key point of departure for his extensive archaeological research of the surrounding region. Through the in-depth study of 15 other



Middleport villages around Crawford Lake, Finlayson is uncovering unprecedented finds about the long-term movements of Middleport peoples in the area.

Through this research, it is known that the Middleport Indians settled in a location for only 20 to 25 years before moving on. The reason for the move could have been as esoteric as a visionary dream of a shaman or chief or as pragmatic as soil depletion or pollution. "Well, after 25 or so years of 450 people literally throwing their garbage outside the longhouses into middens, things must have been pretty runchy," reasoned Finlayson.

These moves were usually in the immediate area, sometimes only a few kilometres away, and always planned well in advance. Trees on the chosen site were cleared by stripping a ring of bark from around the trunk, then waiting for

is one of these four. An examination of bones found on the Huron sites indicates that this group was controlling access to the deer population: deer bone is common on the Huron sites but not on the Neutral sites. It would also appear that the Neutrals moved into the Crawford Lake site after the Huron groups moved out. Finlayson believes, and the pollen analysis of the lake would substantiate, that the current dating of the reconstructed Indian village is incomplete. The period from 1434 to 1459 was probably only the later period of occupation; Finlayson believes a series of earlier occupations took place between 1350 and 1450 A.D.

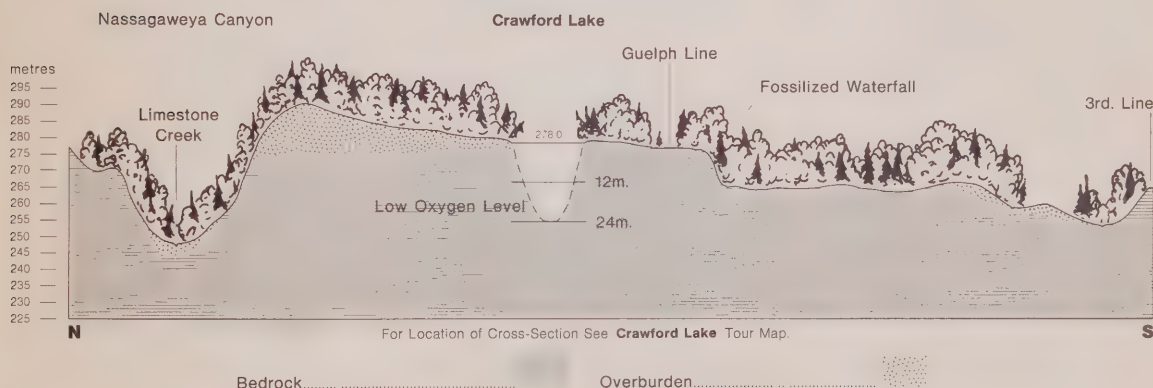
All these new findings are just the tip of the iceberg for Finlayson and he emphasized the importance of the Crawford Lake site in understanding other sites. "We know, for instance, that the Middleports were processing sunflower

a real world-class archaeological project here."

And the on-going archaeological work is not incompatible with the interpretive/conservation activities currently being run by Halton Region Conservation Authority. "There are few archaeological sites that have been authentically reconstructed and developed to attract the public," said Finlayson. "In terms of promoting archaeology and fostering a deeper appreciation of archaeological sites as a non-renewable heritage resource, the work being done by the Halton Region Conservation Authority is outstanding." This remarkable resource will be made available to Halton Region students who will be encouraged to stay overnight and live for a day or two much like members of the Middleport tribe. As Bill Finlayson notes, "It's fine to talk about life in a longhouse and show kids pictures of longhouses, but until they walk into that

## CRAWFORD LAKE

### Cross-Section



them to die. The number of villages around Crawford Lake indicate the area underwent an extended period of settlement removals and relocations. And in attempting to establish a pattern to the movement of these people through time and place Finlayson has uncovered some interesting data.

The careful study of artifacts from the different villages suggests there were two distinct but related groups of people inhabiting the Crawford Lake area at the same time. Both groups were perfectly adapted to their environment, but in disparate ways. What is remarkable is that these two related groups, living only 5 to 12 kilometres apart, evolved into two distinctly different tribes—Huron and Neutral.

The Neutrals are believed to have occupied a group of five villages farthest from the lake, while the four villages closest to the lake appear to be Huron territory—the reconstructed Indian village

seeds by the lake, perhaps to remove oil, because of the quantity of shells found in the sediment," noted Finlayson. "There are almost no shells found on the site itself; therefore, something interesting was being done by the lake."

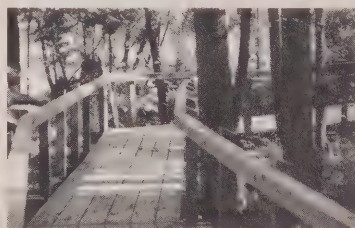
The analysis of lake sediments has also indicated that current archaeological dating by radio-carbon methods which would place the occupation of the site at 1380 is not as accurate as dating by lake sediments which indicate a somewhat earlier time frame.

Finlayson is anxious for Dr. Roger Byrne, a geologist at Berkley University, to return and complete his study of the lake sediments. Byrne was the first to recognize the potential of the lake and any new findings on his part would have immeasurable impact on Finlayson's work. "With the completion of the site excavation, the core samples from the lake and the other things we're starting to find out about the surrounding area, there is

reconstructed longhouse at Crawford Lake, they have no real idea about longhouses."

Crawford Lake is more than a unique recreational experience; it demonstrates how cultural heritage is inseparably linked to natural heritage. Developed with attention to detail and authenticity, this is one Escarpment area park that should not be missed.

Crawford Lake is located north of Highway 401 on Guelph Line at Steeles Avenue.





# In the Wake of the Nancy

The Nancy had been the object of some historians' interest and study for decades. A book describing her adventures had spurred a search for her charred remains near the mouth of the Nottawasaga River where the once brave British ship was known to have been sunk during the War of 1812.

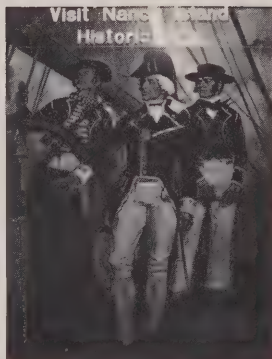
For two years a Toronto dentist, fascinated by the stories he had read and determined to find the schooner Nancy, had been probing the murky waters of the Nottawasaga River which flows out of the Niagara Escarpment. On a hot day in July 1925 he wandered onto a small flat island in the river at the heart of the resort town of Wasaga Beach. He idly struck at a tree root and heard a metallic clang. Excited at the possibilities he dug at the root and soon revealed first one oak rib, then another and another. Dr. F.J. Conboy is credited with finding the long-lost H.M.S. Nancy.

No one ever expected the wreck of the Nancy would be found on land but it is believed that over the decades the river left deposits of sand and silt around the hull, gradually creating the island—an island which protected the hull from the ravages of scavengers and ice.

Though tiny by today's warship standards, the Nancy's role in the War of 1812 was enormously heroic. In the latter part of the war, after Britain had surprisingly lost a decisive naval battle on Lake Erie, this little ship of about 24 metres was the last hope for British control of the Upper Lakes and the west. She transported critically needed supplies to Forts Mackinac and St. Joseph's near Sault Ste. Marie. Whoever held these points held the access to the vast wealth of the fur trade which by this time had spread far to the west and was a multi-million dollar business.

When the war was over, Mackinac still flew the red ensign and in exchange for its return to the United States, the borders of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia remained unchanged.

Interest in the Nancy story and her burned-out hull flourished once she had been found. Relic-seekers swarmed over the island carting away cannonballs, iron fittings, tableware and even huge sections of the hull. Authorities moved quickly then to protect the hull and from that early



PHOTOS COURTESY WASAGA BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK

Remains of Nancy's hull

action evolved the present Nancy Island Historic Site where the remains of the hull are exhibited in a climate-controlled enclosure. Annually 15,000 visitors roam the island, listen to the story of the Nancy and her brave crew in a uniquely designed theatre and explore a bright museum where artifacts of the Nancy and detailed maps of the War of 1812 are displayed.

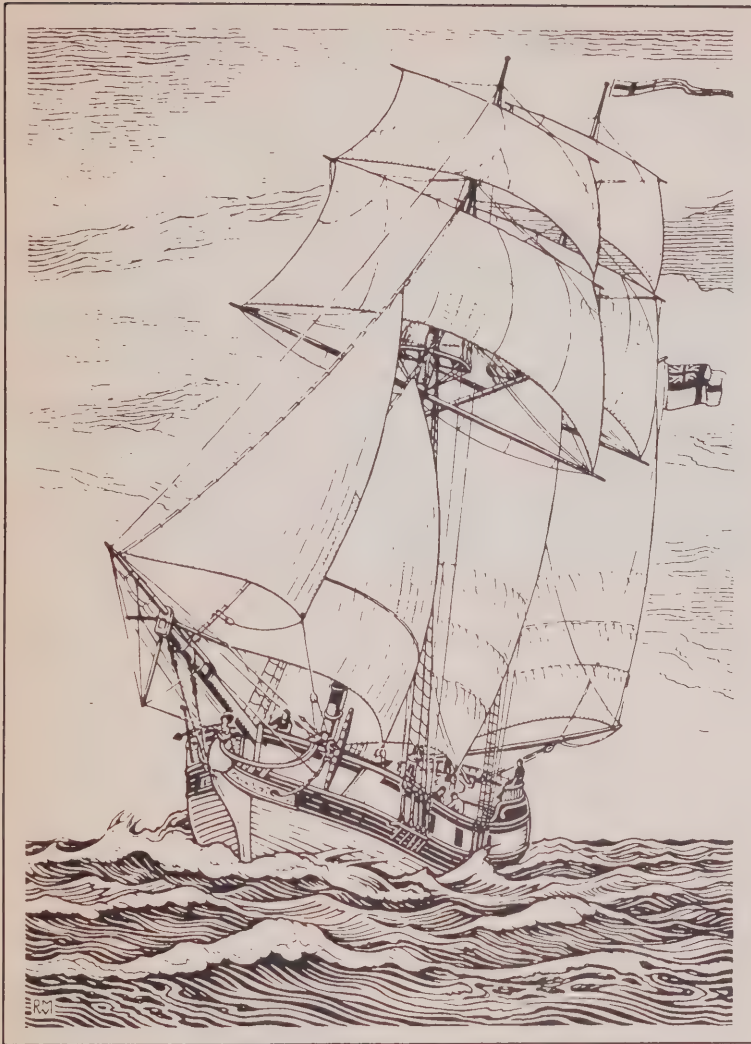
In the wake of the Nancy's exciting discovery have come years of telling and re-telling the story starting with her construction at Detroit in 1789 to her fiery end on the Nottawasaga River in 1814. But only recently has evidence come to light which suggests that the hull exhibited at Wasaga Beach is not the Nancy constructed in 1789. In fact there is evidence to suggest the possibility that the first Nancy could have been replaced with a later ship christened with the same name.

By the time the Nancy was sunk she would have been nearly a quarter of a century old and that fact has always bothered some historians. Carol MacLeod, a Canadian government historian, pointed out that the life expectancy of wooden ships of that period rarely exceeded eight or ten years because of the problem of wood rot and structural stress. Vessels were usually stripped of useful metal fittings and rigging before being abandoned. It was less expensive to build new ships than to refit the old given the easy access to timber. So the Nancy's longevity continues to be suspect.

The evidence is contained in the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library. There the correspondence of a Scottish immigrant named Angus Mackintosh reports the marine news of the region at the turn of the nineteenth century. Among other activities Mackintosh was a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, a merchant and trader and a proprietor of the North West Fur Trading Company.

In a letter dated January 30, 1801 to Simon McTavish of the North West Company, Mackintosh reported the activities of the competition, the New North West Company. He wrote that he had had a conversation with one of their own employees, a Captain Baker, who said he had had an offer from Captain Mills "to





II. M. SCHOONER NANCY. 1789-1814  
DRAWN BY ROWLEY MURPHY AFTER PLANS BY C. H. J. SNIDER

build a new Nancy for him and the other Owners of the Old Nancy which he meant to accept..." if Mackintosh would discharge him.

Of course, with his reference alone, there was little to support a theory that the new Nancy had in fact been built. But the legacy of Angus Mackintosh's later letters lends even stronger credibility to the possibility that a new Nancy had been put into service.

Mackintosh's correspondence through 1801 and into early 1802 mentions the use of a new vessel captained by Mills. Other references to a new vessel continue but are vague. Finally, on May 18, 1802 Mackintosh writes to McTavish that a new vessel, built by the rival New North West Company and meant for use on Lake Superior had been launched at Sault Ste. Marie and the "rigging for her, as (sic) all been prepared at Malden (at Amherstburg) last winter, and was sent

forward this spring in the New Nancy..."

Mackintosh's references to ship building both for the North West Company and for the competition are frequently bewildering and often leave the reader without the names of the ships but a strong argument could be made, as a result of this last letter, that there was indeed a second Nancy launched probably in 1801 and in service in 1802. Port records and custom inspector records may reveal collaborative material; however, these have never been investigated specifically with the Nancy in mind.

Nonetheless, regardless of the date of construction of the hull enshrined at the Nancy Island Historic Site, it is the strength of the little ship, her valiant battle against overwhelming odds and courage of her crew which are the real foundations of the story which has become a Great Lakes marine legend in Canada.

The first Nancy was proudly and ceremoniously launched by John Richardson, a partner in the Montreal merchant firm of Forsyth Richardson and Company. She boasted a hull of well-seasoned white oak and a superstructure of red cedar. Her design elicited admiring comments at all her ports of call upon her debut in lake commerce. Foremost among her features were two raked masts which gave her the appearance of swift movement even when at anchor and a beautifully carved and painted figurehead of a female dressed in the fashion of the day, complete with hat and feather. A replica of the figurehead can be seen today in the Nancy museum.

The architectural attributes of the second Nancy, if ever put to paper, have not yet been found. In his book describing the Nancy's adventures, 'The Story of the Nancy and other Eighteen Twelvies', historian Charles H. Snider says the American who spotted the schooner in her hiding place hours before the Nottawasaga battle described her as having raked masts but that might have been literary licence. From the excavation of the hull on Nancy Island it is known that the wreck remains were of oak. Whether the beautiful, carved woman graced the bow of the second Nancy is still a mystery, although it seems possible the figurehead would have been transferred for good luck.

In 1804 the North West Company absorbed the New North West Company and Angus Mackintosh acquired a part ownership in the Nancy. His 18 year old son, Alexander, was appointed the captain. Near the beginning of the war, when the American General William Hull took British-held Fort Detroit, the Nancy was moved to Fort Malden for protection. There she was impressed and outfitted with one six pound and two 24 pound carronades (small cannons).

By 1813 the Nancy was employed in the important supply runs from the Detroit River to Michilimackinac. One of her log books miraculously still survives. It covers the period from July 1813 to March 1814 and records in Alexander's own hand his observations and the trials the Nancy encounters during the months of war leading up to her loss. An abridged version entitled 'The War Log of the Nancy' was published several years ago by Snider. It was Snider's 'The Story of the Nancy...' published by McClelland and Stewart Limited in 1926 which first sparked Dr. Conboy's interest in finding the wreck.

Sparing in his words, Alexander describes in the log dated September 5, 1813 how, having made passage heading for Detroit from Mackinac in 30 hours, a good time, he hove to before entering the St. Clair River at the southern end of Lake Huron. He sent men ashore to inquire about the state of the country, whereupon he learned the British had lost





*Theatre at Nancy Island Historic Site*

the Battle of Lake Erie and with it the water transportation routes through Lakes Erie and St. Clair to the Upper Lakes, and furthermore, the Americans had overrun the Canadian side of the Detroit River.

While the *Nancy* was anchored some American militia attempted to take the ship. But Alexander Mackintosh, being fiercely loyal to the crown refused to give up public property and ordered his men to fire if fired upon. While bullets smashed into the main boom at his head Mackintosh stood exposed at the helm guiding his ship out of harm's way.

The description of this episode in the *Nancy's* log is indicative of the Alexander who later demonstrated even greater courage and strength in battle.

Ever mindful of the now desperate need to supply Mackinac, the British established an overland route which involved trekking supplies from York (Toronto) to Holland Landing on the southern shore of Lake Simcoe; then by boat up the lake to Kempenfeldt Bay where the City of Barrie is located today; across land again to Willow Creek and finally by batteaux down the creek to the Nottawasaga and Georgian Bay. At the mouth of the river the *Nancy* unloaded packs of furs from Mackinac and loaded supplies for the return trip.

The *Nancy* was thus engaged at Nottawasaga in August 1914 when the American fleet of six large ships carrying sixty guns and carronades and manned by 500 seamen attacked the fort at Mackinac. Despite greatly outnumbering the fort's defenders, the American Commodore Arthur Sinclair failed in his attempt to starve out the British by cutting off their supplies. He made for Nottawasaga where he intended to trap the *Nancy*.

Before Sinclair's fleet reached its destination a lone messenger who had paddled desperately from Mackinac warned the *Nancy's* crew of the impending danger. The *Nancy's* newly appointed captain, Lieutenant Miller Worsley, R.N., with Alexander's help—he was then only 25—devised a plan to hide the ship a few kilometres upstream in the hope that the Americans would tire of waiting and leave behind only a skeleton force against which the *Nancy*

would have a chance. But, Worsley did not disillusion himself as to the outcome of a battle with six American ships.

He directed the construction of two blockhouses, one on the bank overlooking the *Nancy* and a second further upstream. At the second he left a load of supplies and two batteaux. In the blockhouse adjacent to the *Nancy* he mounted her guns. As a final precaution Worsley had his men run a powder line from the blockhouse to the *Nancy* which he intended to light the minute it looked as if his command might fall into enemy hands.

Worsley was making his final preparations when Sinclair sailed into the bay. Disappointed to find no *Nancy*, Sinclair moved a few kilometres down the shore to a flat, sandy area where his men could set up a bivouac.

Once ashore the Americans climbed a ridge beyond the beach and were shocked to see rising above the pine trees the masts of a schooner, anchored in the river where it paralleled the shoreline. It had to be the *Nancy*.

As daylight broke the next day, August 14, the Americans opened fire with cannons and carronades. Worsley's few guns blazed in defiant response. For four hours the battle raged until Sinclair landed howitzers on the beach and increased the pounding blows to the blockhouse. The end of the battle came swiftly when one of the shells struck the blockhouse and ignited the powder line to the *Nancy*. Worsley and Mackintosh watched the *Nancy* explode in flames. With a fury fueled by the pork and flour still in the hold the fire leaped through the vessel. Over the ridge on the opposite bank swarmed the Americans. Worsley ordered his handful of men to scatter into the woods and to meet again at the other blockhouse. The Americans did not follow and the *Nancy*, considered beyond salvage, was left to burn to the waterline and sink.

The *Nancy* was truly gone but she would not go unrevenged. Worsley and his crew were resourceful and determined men.

Sinclair, believing he had done his job well and the Upper Lakes were in American hands, sailed off to Detroit. He left behind the *Tigress* and the *Scorpion* to guard the entrance to the river and to ensure that the *Nancy's* survivors did not try to make for Mackinac. However, after only a short time the Americans obstructed the river mouth with trees and sailed away.

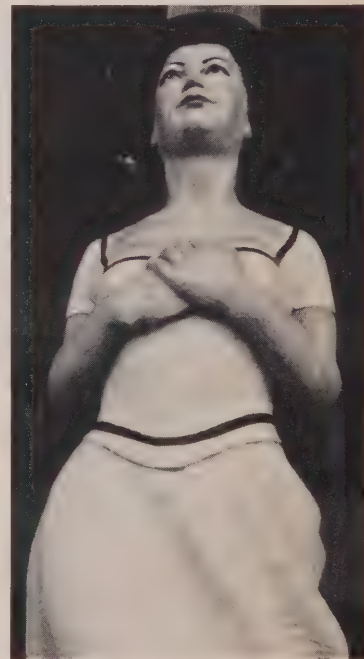
This was Miller Worsley's chance. The crew cleared the river mouth. In the two batteaux he had saved and the messenger's canoe, all loaded with supplies, they made for Mackinac. Paddling and rowing day and night and with a little help from the lug sails when a breeze came up, they reached their destination, a distance of 580 kilometres in six days.

One night before they reached Mackinac the fugitives passed one of the ships which had helped sink the *Nancy*. At Mackinac Worsley gathered a force of 90 hand-picked fighters and stole back, again in the dead of night, to board and take the *Tigress*. As the story goes, Alexander Mackintosh was among the courageous party and he, seeing that an enemy gunner was about to fire a cannonload of shot into the fray, leapt upon the man and with a sweep of his cutlass severed the man's head. As he heaved the body overboard he cried, "Follow yer heid, mon, follow yer heid!"

The *Tigress*, stars and stripes left flying, was used as a decoy to take the *Scorpion* the next day and the two ships, renamed the *Surprise* after the manner in which she was taken and the *Confiance*, respectively, formed the nucleus of a new British navy on the Upper Lakes. The *Nancy* was revenged.

When the war ended Miller Worsley went back to the Nottawasaga River to build a temporary naval Establishment at Schoonertown a few kilometres from where the *Nancy* sank. A permanent Establishment was built in 1817 at Penetanguishene further up the east side of the bay. Today a reconstruction of that naval base and later military garrison tells the story of the Royal Navy after the war.

Both the Naval and Military Establishments, operated by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, and the Nancy Island Historic Site which is part of the Wasaga Beach Provincial Park are open to the public daily from Victoria Day weekend in May until Labour Day in September. ■



*Replica of Nancy's figurehead*



# Hockley Valley Improvement Association



Rededication ceremony with Harold Smith (left) and George McCague, M.P.P.

COURTESY MARY CLARKE

For more than 100 years, travellers on the Hockley Road near Orangeville have stopped to refresh themselves with a drink of clear, cold water taken from a roadside spring bubbling up from deep within the ancient limestone of the Niagara Escarpment.

In the early days, a stop at the spring was a welcome break for farmers transporting produce to market via the picturesque, but often treacherous, dirt and corduroy road that linked their farms and the settlements of the Hockley Valley with Orangeville. Friendships were renewed and gossip was shared with fellow travellers.

Today, the road is paved but the spring remains a popular meeting place as Hockley Valley residents mingle with visitors from as far away as Hamilton and Toronto who have come to replenish their household supply of pure drinking water. And for cyclists and Bruce Trail hikers, the spring still provides a refreshing break.

A plaque erected in 1980 by the Hockley Valley Improvement Association, with the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, briefly outlines the history of the spring. The site is maintained by the Association, a group of volunteer Valley residents dedicated to enhancing and preserving wooded beauty of this scenic Escarpment Valley.

In tune with the Valley's historical roots, Association members recognize the essential fragility of their relationship with its natural environment. For more than 10,000 years, the valleys of the Niagara Escarpment acted as natural passages for animals and nomadic peoples travelling across the great limestone ridge created when the glaciers receded.

While the Jesuit Relations and writings of the early French missionaries indicate that their Huron guides followed a trail

through the Hockley Valley, it remained a wilderness until relatively late in the nineteenth century. It wasn't until several major roads were opened in 1850—Huron Street from Port Credit to Collingwood, the Mail Road from Barrie to Meaford and the Garafraxa Road from Shelburne to Owen Sound—that settlers in large numbers began to arrive in Dufferin.

The arrival of these settlers started the inevitable process of change that would alter the character of the Valley forever.

In 1876, the Township of Mono (from Monadh, the Gaelic word for hill) hewed a dirt and corduroy road out of the wilderness along the Valley floor, following the route of the old Indian trail. This road roughly paralleled the winding Nottawasaga River that begins its 100 kilometre journey to Georgian Bay in the Valley.

Hamlets such as Glen Cross and Hockley sprang up along the roadside and, while the road brought farmers to town, it also attracted town-dwellers to the Valley's wooded slopes where many built summer homes, making it one of the earliest vacation resorts in Ontario.

Over the years, the same natural beauty that lured these early town-dwellers has drawn a wide variety of people to the Valley—from artists hoping to capture its essence on canvas to city-dwellers seeking an escape from the rat-race. To all the Valley has provided respite. And, because of this, it has engendered a fierce loyalty in its inhabitants.

With remarkable foresight, a group of Valley residents recognized, in 1959, that the Valley was about to embark upon a period of rapid change unequalled in its previous history. Hoping to encourage positive changes that would preserve its natural environment, they formed the Hockley Valley Improvement Association.

The Association's first project was the improvement of the old road, a task accomplished in 1962 when it was upgraded and paved.

Like many Escarpment areas, the Hockley Valley is rich in gravel. Perhaps the Association's greatest achievement came in the early 1970's when gravel operators, eager to find new aggregate sources to fuel the construction boom in southern Ontario, began to eye several locations in the Valley.

Responding to a threat they believed would eventually destroy their Valley, residents mounted a vigorous 'Save the Valley' campaign that finally convinced the provincial government to reject a major gravel extraction proposal.

"Once a gravel company got started in one spot, we were afraid that they'd come in everywhere," said Association vice-president Mary Clarke who, with her husband, David, operates Glen Cross Pottery.

Despite their victories of the '70's, Association members recognize that the aggregate deposits in and around the Valley pose a continuing threat to its future.

While the maintenance of the historic water trough provides a focus for the Association's activities, members closely monitor development proposals for the Valley. Harold Smith, the current president of the Association, said, "If we feel that a proposal conflicts with the desirable development of the Valley, we raise objections."

With the establishment of the Niagara Escarpment Commission in 1973, the Association received unexpected aid in meeting its goals. During the 10-year period of plan preparation, the Commission battled to conserve the natural beauty of Escarpment valleys such as the Hockley. And, once incorporated into local official plans, the land-use policies developed by the Commission will do much to ensure that these valleys are preserved.

When the Association celebrated its 25th anniversary and Ontario's Bicentennial last summer with a ceremonial rededication of the water trough, it was only fitting then that Commission Chairman Ivor McMullin should be present along with the area's provincial MP, George McCague, the first Commission Chairman. Federal MP Perrin Beatty was also on hand, along with many of the local dignitaries and Valley residents who have worked so hard over the years to ensure its preservation. One of these, Robert Shirley, the deputy reeve of Mono Township, was made the Honorary Lord Mayor of the Hockley Valley.

The efforts of these dedicated residents, working in concert with concerned local and provincial governments, will do much to secure the Hockley Valley for future generations.



## Agricultural Heritage

The Niagara Escarpment Plan, covering a total area of 180,778 hectares, contains comprehensive policies for seven major land-use designations.

One of those designations, Escarpment Rural, constitutes approximately 29 percent of the total Plan area. Largely composed of minor Escarpment slopes and landforms together with lands necessary for the provision of an open landscape and the maintenance of the Escarpment environment, the 52,887 hectare rural area also provides a buffer to the more ecologically sensitive areas of the Escarpment.

But Escarpment Rural Areas are much more than mere buffers. They are a

framework within which the daily lives of generations of Ontario farmers have revolved; and they provide a reference point—a touchstone—from which the province has grown.

The agricultural roots of Ontario are deeply imbedded in tradition. And that tradition has been held in high regard by the Niagara Escarpment Commission in its planning efforts to maintain the Niagara Escarpment substantially as a natural environment.

From the world-renowned tender fruitland of the Niagara Peninsula to the open fields of the high county, Dufferin, and onward to the beef herds of Grey and

Bruce, the 725 kilometre Escarpment winds through varied and extensive agricultural land.

The overall agricultural policy proposed by the Niagara Escarpment Plan is to protect lands with a high agricultural capability and to adhere to the guidelines and policies of the Agricultural Code of Practice and the Food Land Guidelines.

**Cuesta** wishes to take this opportunity to salute the men and women who operate farms in the vicinity of the Niagara Escarpment. We invite our readers to meet three families whose ties with the land are firm and whose heritage is as old as Ontario itself.

# Escarpment Farms

### The Warders

"Looking back, I consider myself lucky that I was born in 1920. I was able to talk to the sons of the pioneers—about the way their fathers coped with adversity, about the way they cleared the land and the early timbering industry."

The speaker is Maitland Warder, who with his brothers Carman and Charles, and his son Roy, all co-partners in Warder Farms Limited, run a beef operation centered at Lion's Head on the Bruce Peninsula.



Maitland Warder

Maitland tells us about his forbears. His grandfather, Eli Warder, came from the Isle of Wight, that large diamond-shaped

island off the south coast of England. He first settled near Port Perry on Lake Scugog. Then in 1875 he moved up to the Bruce Peninsula, which had been opened up for settlement a few years before.

Eli and his wife settled near Ferndale. Later he bought more land on the outskirts of nearby Lion's Head, which after his death in 1915 passed to Maitland's father, Walter, who was to become something of a legend in his time.

In 1923 Walter Warder began buying land near Dyers Bay, north of Lion's Head. The initial purchase of 300 acres was followed in 1937 by another 400 acres. "In the 1930's stripped property—that's to say land stripped of its timber—could be had for 50 cents an acre," Maitland Warder recalls. "So we bought that 400 acres for \$200. To pay for it, we, Dad and his sons, cut 38 cords of shingle timber and 600 sawlogs. We worked all fall, out there in the bush. In winter, with teams and sleighs we delivered the shingle timber to the shingle mill and put the sawlogs where the trucks could get to them in the spring."

Eventually the family's holdings in the Dyers Bay area were to total 2,100 acres, with the property becoming known as Warder's Ranch. Walter Warder was credited, in his seventies, with conducting the only cattle drive in Ontario.

Each spring, with the family helping, he chivvied their cattle the 40 kilometres from Lion's Head to the ranch. Each fall they were brought back. The grazing on the Dyers Bay land was poor. Warder improved it by broadcasting mixtures of various grass and leguminous species, and by fertilizing and irrigating, to

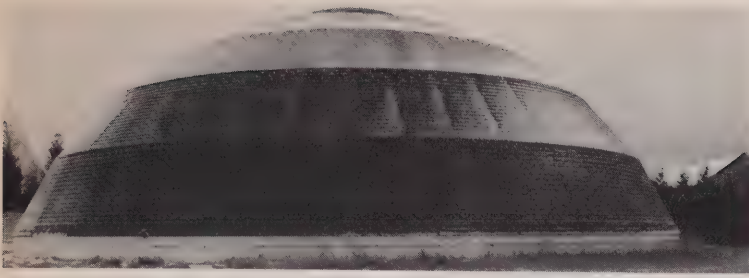
become widely known for his expertise in pasture improvement on poor soils.

Like his father before him, Maitland Warder is an innovator. Interested in geometry since he was a boy, he became aware in the late 1960's of the work of the late Buckminster Fuller, the advocate of circular buildings whose design for the American pavilion at Expo '67 subsequently inspired the designers of Ontario Place. When Maitland and his brother Carman, who sell fertilizer in bulk, were in need of a new storage facility, they decided to go for a dome rather than a conventional structure, a decision they have never regretted.



Hereford cattle in one of the Warder's stables





*Dome built to house bulk fertilizer*

And more recently, Maitland Warder and his son Roy built a circular cattle corral. Eighteen metres in diameter and designed to hold over 140 cattle, it is based on a New Zealand design. A circular corral, Warder maintains, makes it easier to handle cattle, while the structure itself is inherently strong and stable.

Serving overseas with the army in World War II, Maitland Warder had returned to Lion's Head in 1946. In England he met his future wife, Frances, then serving in the Royal Navy. In 1946 with the help of his father he cut farming timber. In 1947 with the help of his brothers Carman and Charles, he built his own house. And it was here that Maitland and Frances' children grew up: Roy, now a partner in Warder Farms Limited, Pam, a trained chef, Valerie, a hypervaric technician and Owen, a pilot with Air Canada.

Serving on both local and county school boards in the mid 60's, Warder came to know a leading geographer from the University of Waterloo which, with the University of Guelph, had been sending students to the Bruce Peninsula on extended field trips. The idea arose of establishing a permanent residential centre for outdoor studies on the Peninsula. This led in 1969 to the presentation of an important brief to the Ontario government.

Compiled and edited by Warder, the brief, to which a number of experts contributed, covered not only the need for an outdoor educational centre but the desirability of developing the recreational potential of the Peninsula. And one contributor made a plea for an underwater park.

Warder had good reason to be proud of the final outcome of his efforts and of those who worked with him. On a 130 hectare site near Oliphant west of Warton, the Bruce County Board of Education now runs an Outdoor Education Centre that caters to some 4,000 students a year. And at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula there is the Fathom Five Underwater Park.

In the late 1960's the Warders sold their extensive holdings in the Dyers Bay area to the Ministry of Natural Resources, then assembling parkland. The Warders did not part with their lands without a great deal of thought. On the one hand there

was their concern for the preservation of the environment in the face of recreational subdivisions. On the other, there was the need to preserve the viability of their farm operation.

In any event they found it feasible to re-centre that operation at Lion's Head and "while all of us still feel an affinity for those ranch and timber lands, we have no regrets about relinquishing ownership to a public authority."

Depending upon the amount of hay that's been grown and stored, Warder Farms now buy about 500 Hereford and Charolais calves in western Canada each fall and bring them east. They are overwintered on baled hay and other feeds, pastured for the summer and then sold. Warder emphasizes that it's still very much a family operation.

Walter Warder died in 1982 at the age of 97. At the age of 90 he had written a history of Lion's Head. In the introduction he stressed the importance of recording our past. Maitland and Frances Warder share his view. "We consider it vital," says Maitland, "to document this process—for the sake of succeeding generations." To recognize his contributions Walter Louis Warder's picture will be hung in the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame, the ceremony to take place on June 9th in Milton at the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

### **The Stewarts**



*Clair Stewart*

Virgil, farmer, historian and most famous of Roman poets, was a great believer in crop rotation. In his *Georgics* or *Art of Husbandry* published in 30 B.C. he pointed out that oats burned out the soil and that corn, by which he meant crops like wheat and barley, should be alternated with beans or other leguminous plants.

Virgil would have approved of the Stewart family—Clair Stewart, his wife, Amy, and their son, Tim, who farm on the Niagara Escarpment north of the Village of Caledon East. As custodians of Highfields Farm, the Stewarts are outstanding. And one of the ways they preserve the health of their soil is by putting Virgil's ancient theories into practice.

The Stewarts became farmers by accident. In the early 1950's they were looking for a country retreat and bought a lot in Albion Township high up on the Escarpment. In 1956 they added the adjoining lot. The farmer who sold it to them suggested that they should farm it with his brother Morris Watts as manager. Today, that position is now held by Morris Watts' son, Wayne.

It was land first settled by Irish immigrants in the 1840's. They had laboriously cleared the land of its trees and had lifted and hauled the many stones from the steep sides of the hills. All to no purpose. "When I pass the ruins of an old farmstead," Clair Stewart says, "I can only think of the heartbreak. After all their work, the soil turned out to be too poor for growing crops."

A century later, tractors revolutionized agriculture. But a tractor could not be used on the steep slopes and so they were used to pasture cattle. "Our land had been so heavily grazed that there wasn't a wildflower on it. And no trees either, except in the valleys," Clair Stewart adds.

It's difficult to imagine this now. During the 1950's the Stewarts planted over 100,000 white and red pine. It would be thirty years before they harvested their first tree crop. In 1984 they sold the first thinnings from the plantations.

It was also in the 50's that the Stewarts began keeping cattle. "It was a very small operation to start with," Clair Stewart explains. "But with the acquisition of a third and then a fourth farm, we had 1,100 acres in all, 400 of them arable. We grew barley, corn and hay for feed, and fed as many as 400 head over winter."

But by the late 1970's the Stewarts were disillusioned with the feed-lot business. Tim Stewart takes up the story. "By 1979 we were out of cattle altogether and had changed to cash-crops. Now we grow seed wheat and seed barley and this year we'll be growing some seed oats. We store the seed and sell it when we think there's a good market."

"An important element in our crop management is the need to rotate crops. When we were in the cattle business we





*One of several ponds*

used to rotate barley, corn and hay. When we got out of the cattle business we linked up with a local potato farmer. In effect we put our land and the land that he works into a common pool so that we can rotate seed crops with potatoes. Some land that's unsuitable for potatoes rotates between seed crops and hay."

"To put organic matter back into the soil we seed red clover along with the barley and the oats. It acts as a cover crop during the winter and is plowed down in the spring."

"We're working on a long-term basis. We're not interested in mining the land. So if, let's say, we find the pH of the soil has dropped, we lime it, even though liming it is an expensive business. And the potato farmer, Eldred Lundy, who works with his son Allan, is as concerned as we are."

Tim Stewart and his family now live in Toronto, though they spend weekends and summers on their farm which adjoins Highfields. A seed-crop operation fits in well with his other business interests.

Behind the old farmhouse on Highfields, where Jim Muir, another Stewart employee lives, are the barns and fences of the feed-lot, now unused except by two Belgian horses, 50 chickens and the Muir's single cow. She's a Brown Swiss,

and has been called 'Agnes' ever since she appeared in the movie 'Agnes of God'.

Behind the barns the gravel road to the Stewarts' house dips down between ponds where a number of mature maples have recently been transplanted to produce an instant grove of hardwoods. The road winds on through woods and then, beyond the trees, is a high fieldstone wall, the north wall of the Stewarts' house.

From a great picture window in one of the livingrooms is a magnificent view over the terraces of Amy Stewart's unusual and beautifully landscaped garden. In the distance are undulating hills clothed in the trees that the Stewarts planted.

Clair Stewart is proud of the trees and the efforts made over the last thirty years to reforest the land; efforts made not only by himself but also by other so-called 'weekend farmers'. Hills once bare are now thickly wooded.

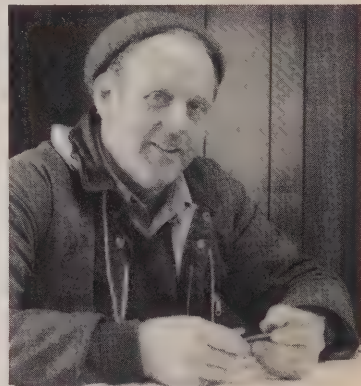
Amy Stewart is a director of the McLean Foundation which contributes funds to a wide range of conservation projects. The wooded hills of Highfields Farm and its carefully tended soil are an impressive demonstration of the family's continuing solicitude for the well-being, not only of people, but of the land.

## The Staffs

Visit the Staff farm high on the Niagara Escarpment near St. Catharines and you'll likely be astonished by the amount and range of heavy equipment that you'll see.

Enormous machines tower above you in huge barns. On the morning that we were there, whole tractor-trailer loads of fertilizer were being shifted by front-end loaders into a large shed.

"How many machines do you own?" we asked Howard Staff. His rough count was 25 farm tractors along with the 140 to 150 pieces of equipment that go with them, 6 tractor-trailers, 2 grape harvesters, 2 bulldozers, 2 front-end loaders, 1 earth mover and, to keep the operation going, probably a dozen or so smaller cars and trucks."



*Howard Staff*

Much of this equipment has been bought second-hand. Some of it has been specially built on the farm. All of it is serviced and maintained on the premises. And, with a few exceptions, all of it is used on the Staff property only.

How did his massive family operation start? As with the beginning of many things, the answer is 'quite simply'.

The farm, incorporated as H.A. Staff Limited, is operated by H. Lavelle Staff and his sons, Howard, Brian and Bill. Their ancestors came from Louth in Lincolnshire, England, to settle on the Niagara Escarpment. When? Well, it was probably 1812, because Sir Isaac Brock's men marched past the farm on their way from Ball's Falls to their victory at Queenston Heights.

Apples were the chief crop on the Staff's first 100 acres. "Then about 87 years ago," Howard Staff says "my grandfather and one of his uncles planted 4 acres of Concord grapes. That's the vineyard opposite the house and it's still in operation."

"Although times were bad in the 1930's," Howard Staff continues, "my grandfather and my father made a commitment to stay in agriculture. In the 1960's my brothers and I made the same commitment. Since then we've been able



*Part of the Stewart woods. Chips are used as garden mulch by Amy Stewart.*





*The old farm house*

to buy an additional 800 acres, mostly from people who were retiring."

Today the Staffs own some 1,100 acres "all within three miles of the home farm." About 800 acres are under grapes, 150 acres are part of the Niagara Escarpment, 50 acres have disappeared under buildings, loading bays, and so on. Wheat and soya beans are grown on the remaining land.

"Then there's our trucking operation," Staff continues, "We collect about 75 percent of the manure produced by the Toronto stockyards, some 15,000 to 18,000 tons a year. We also take all the manure from the Kitchener stockyards and another 700 to 800 tons on a sporadic basis from the jail farm at Guelph. That keeps two men and two tractor-trailers busy year-round. And all the manure is used on our property."

"We also bring in about 400 tons of commercial fertilizer. That's what you saw us doing today. There was a year-end 'special' on fertilizer and having the men and the equipment meant that we could haul six tractor-trailer loads in two days. In this way we probably saved the equivalent of one man's salary for an entire year."

"How many men do you employ?" we asked. "There're 14 men working full time on the farm," Staff replies. "Our annual turn-over is about 600 employees. Today (a day in mid-December) there're probably 25 to 30 men out there pruning. Tying the vines in the spring takes about 120 people six weeks. Suckering and thinning in the summer takes 50 to 60 people."

"Keeping the books for the whole operation is a big job. My wife, Wendy, works in the office full time. Up to four years ago the books were kept on my mother's diningroom table. She'd ask for her table at Christmas and Thanksgiving."

The office now overlooks one of the two

aircraft runways. The Staffs own a 4-seat Piper aircraft. One of its functions is to fly over the vineyards in May if there's a danger of frost. One plane can stir up enough air to protect a hundred acres of grapevines.

The plane is also used for taking Howard Staff to meetings. "I'm on a number of boards and commissions," he says. "In 1979, for instance, I was president of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association. I had 150 meetings that year. I'm also chairman of the Tender Fruit Section of the Canadian Horticultural Commission—that means eight trips to Ottawa annually—and I'm also involved locally as president of the Vineland Growers Co-operative Limited."

For 48 years the Staffs have been under contract to produce grapes for Jordan Wines, now Jordan and Ste. Michelle Cellars Limited. A sign of the wall of the office commemorates the first contract. "When we started we were one of their smallest suppliers," Staff says. "Now 30

to 40 percent of every bottle of Jordan wine comes from this farm."

"We grow 24 different varieties of grapes in accordance with the winemakers' requirements, everything from the original Concords through French hybrids to pure viniferas."

"The one factor that has kept us in business has been the grape harvester. We were the first in Canada to try out a grape harvester. That was in 1968. And we tried it on the original vineyard. It used to take seven men an hour to pick a ton of grapes. Now two men can pick up to 20 tons."

In spite of competition from imported wines Howard Staff's outlook is positive. His and his brother's children are the sixth generation on a farm that has seen many ups and downs in a century and three-quarters of history. His 10 year old son is already involved in a family business that's likely to continue. Says his father, "He can't wait to be a farmer—and a test pilot." ■







COURTESY JUDY MORRISON

*Ballooning in the Hockley Valley*

## Up, Up and Away!

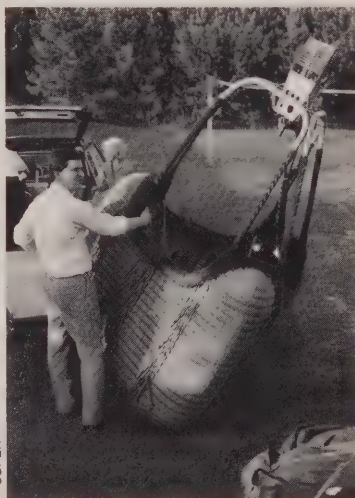
Rainbow II glides silently over the Caledon Hills casting a giant shadow on the Escarpment below. Up here at 900 feet plus all is calm as we race the wind. A silence that is only broken by the dragon hiss of a propane burner envelops us.

From the confines of a sturdy wicker basket which comfortably accommodates four adults, the Millcroft Inn from which the balloon ascended, and our destination, Orangeville, are clearly visible: we have a bird's eye view of the terrain.

The commitment has been made—there is no turning back—for a short while we have become creatures of the air.

Seasoned aeronauts had advised that once the courage is mustered to climb into a hot air balloon and literally 'cast your fate to the wind', the neophyte will return time after time. There is no doubt that the ballooning experience is more than a sum of its parts—it adds up to total sensory enjoyment. From the actual take-off in a magically coloured balloon that evokes fond childhood memories, to the pervasive peace of the flight, the atmosphere

is charged with anticipation. Our destination, determined by prevailing winds, becomes irrelevant as the journey itself dominates.



P. SOPER

*Rattan all-wicker basket*

It is not surprising that the hot air balloon, used in man's first flight nearly two centuries ago, has returned and is gaining unprecedented popularity as a recreational pursuit.

During the summer months of 1984, the Millcroft Inn established a liaison with Al Russell, past-president of the Canadian Balloon Association and current National Balloon Champion of Canada to offer champagne flights over the Escarpment areas of Caledon and Halton as part of the Inn's special weekend package, and as a promotion of this popular pastime.

Colin Morrison, assistant manager of Millcroft, noted that "Millcroft Inn is unique in its field as is the sport of hot air ballooning; therefore, they are mutually compatible."

Three magnificent hot air balloons, Rainbow II, Stop and Go, and Pegasus awaited inflation in an open field near the parking lot of the Inn. The inflation process is part of the whole experience and 'all hands' are expected to help out.

First the envelopes of ripstop polyester in a variety of brilliant colours, are unwrapped and spread like huge calico



quilts on the ground while giant fans fill the balloon with hot air. The envelopes heave and undulate, gradually becoming larger, belching and grumbling like huge behemoths arising from the sea. Modern balloons range from a size of about 56,000 cubic feet to 140,000 cubic feet rising to the height of a six-storey building when fully inflated. Their dimensions at full inflation are truly awesome. It becomes a struggle to hold the baskets down as the balloons strain to dance up into the air.

Today our flight conditions are not ideal due to a low pressure area that has attracted winds of 12 m.p.h. This wind speed constitutes the upper legal limit when a balloon should be launched. The most ideal weather conditions consisting of light winds usually occur just after sunrise or two to three hours before sunset.

The Rainbow II can no longer be constrained.

Three of us are unceremoniously heaved over the sides of the basket to be greeted by the captain of Rainbow II, Asher Hodgson. "Hot air ballooning is an experience you will remember for the rest of your life," assures Hodgson as we begin to cast off. One more blast of the propane burner and we're off. Stop and Go and Pegasus are sighted on the horizon as the winds carry them northwards towards Orangeville. We travel with the aid of the best technology has had to offer to the sport of ballooning. Every modern balloon system has an altimeter, an instrument to measure the rate of climb and movement up or down; a compass; a pyrometer to measure the temperature inside the balloon envelope and a radio to maintain contact with the chase vehicle. An interesting option available in the basket section of the balloon is that of a 'champagne console'. Perhaps the contents to be shared by the crew and a startled but fascinated landowner at point of landing?

The radio contact is important as balloon flight is as fickle as the prevailing wind which governs both the direction and the speed of flight.

Our captain, it is comforting to learn, is also an Air Canada pilot. We reason that if he can land an aircraft, he probably can land Rainbow II. And we are told that eight out of ten landings maintain the basket in an upright position. Would-be balloon pilots are trained by an experienced balloonist and must acquire a total of 16 hours flying time before becoming licensed themselves. These standards have been set by Transport Canada. The balloon itself is inspected annually to ensure airworthiness and is certified as such by the same Department. Thus assured, we relax and enjoy the flight.

"The Caledon and Halton Hills areas of the Escarpment are really magnificent," notes Hodgson. And several aero-



P. SOPER

#### *Thrill of a lifetime*

nauts have their balloon headquarters in the vicinity. We have to agree as Rainbow II drifts over a breathtaking panorama. As the balloon descends to a lower altitude, the treetops seem to be easily within reach and a red fox flushed from cover races the balloon across an open field. A heron rises from the wetlands near the Orangeville reservoir and its ghost-gray form glides below us. The silence is complete.

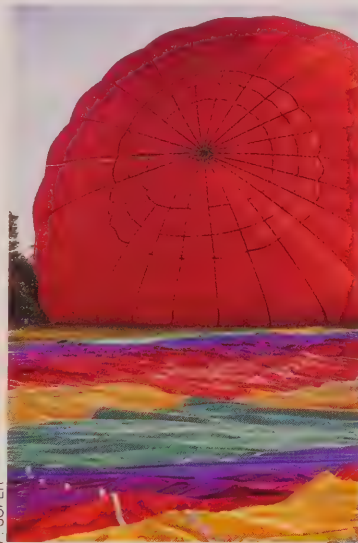
High winds force a quick descent to a landing site in an open field. Aeronauts are careful to avoid fields that are planted or horse pastures and the pilot usually leaves his calling card behind with the landowner should any damage be sustained by crops. Aerial crop identification courses are required before a pilot is granted his licence.

Rainbow II touches down as the crown line is pulled to allow the hot air to escape. The strong wind velocity makes an upright landing difficult and we tumble, legs and arms entangled, out of the basket onto terra firma.

The chase vehicle contacts the owner of the property and requests permission to land. Should permission to land be refused, the balloon would be re-inflated; however, permission is granted and the chase vehicle trailing a pod for the balloon carefully makes its way along the fence line to our location.

It has been the thrill of a lifetime

If your interest has been aroused in hot air ballooning, the Canadian High Flying Weekend will be staged at Molson Park in Barrie from July 4 to 7, 1985. The competition will feature the participation of 70 hot air balloons. ■



P. SOPER

*Spread like huge calico quilts...*



P. SOPER

*'All hands' help to inflate balloon*



## Walking End-to-End

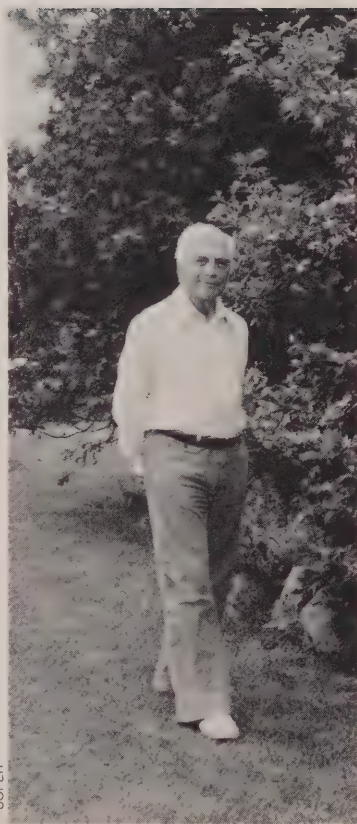
Born in Asyut, Egypt in 1917 and educated in English boarding schools, David Adams detested mandatory Sunday afternoon hikes in the lush English countryside. "I was a most reluctant participant during these excursions," said Adams. "Actually, hiking could be considered a rather late-blooming pleasure of mine."

So late, that his first brush with recreational walking occurred while he was an employee of MacLaren Advertising in Toronto. That was during the early sixties, a decade when the Kennedy charisma had captured the imagination of a generation and participation was about to erase the spectre of the 60 year old Swede running circles around the 'average' Canadian.

Several of Adams' colleagues at MacLaren had decided to accept Kennedy's challenge to walk 80 kilometres, but being ad men first and foremost they immediately lopped 15 percent off the top and opted for a hike of 68 kilometres. With Adams in tow and without even a rudimentary knowledge of hiking, the group drove 68 kilometres straight north of the Jolly Miller Tavern on Yonge Street to a destination just south of Barrie.

After having made every hiking mistake in the book, the motley crew hobbled into the Jolly Miller Tavern many hours later and a good deal wiser! For the next several years this exercise in self-abuse became an annual event. Whether or not the rest of the group continued to hike for pleasure is unknown, but Adams took to the pastime like a duck to water.

In the summer of '84 he walked the entire Bruce Trail from Tobermory to Queenston to aid the blind and print-handicapped people of the province. A volunteer reader for the Oakville-based Radio Reading Service, Adams determined to help raise funds to ensure the continuation of this indispensable service by utilizing his hiking skills.



P. SOPER

David Adams

"Radio Reading Service is unique in Canada. It doesn't play music or make comment; it doesn't entertain nor is it geared to education in the true sense of the word," said Adams. "What it does do is bridge the gap between what is written and people who cannot read the printed word."

Partially funded by the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development, Radio

Reading Service has become a vital link to current events for more than 3,000 Escarpment area residents. Broadcast every weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by CING-FM in Burlington, Radio Reading Service extends from Orangeville in Dufferin County to Niagara Falls in the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Adams, a retired radio broadcaster, is one of more than 100 volunteers who read newspapers and magazines from the Radio Reading Service studio. That he is a dedicated volunteer is attested to by the fact he drives 193 kilometres from his home near Keswick to tape his three one-hour shows.

"Broadcasting was once my profession and both my wife Betty and I have been volunteers with the C.N.I.B. for several years," said Adams. "Betty elected to learn Braille and become a transcriber while I enrolled as a reader. At first, I taped textbooks and even a tax table which is the ultimate challenge."

Later, he learned about the Radio Reading Service where he could choose, to some extent, what material he read. "Currently, there are three magazines from which I read—Harpers, Harrowsmith and Saturday Review—and I try to make my selection as broad as possible when choosing each program."

Adams was interviewed on day 25 of his 36 day hike which began on Sunday, May 20 at Tobermory and ended on Sunday, June 24 at Queenston.

It became immediately clear why this gentle man with the sonorous voice and the gentian-blue eyes had attracted the good wishes of so many: he exuded enthusiasm for his cause coupled with quiet good humour about the rigours of his trek. The assistance and genuine goodwill he has elicited from Escarpment residents and from those connected with his walk has been overwhelming.

Grace Cronin, the dynamo behind the Country Host chain of bed and breakfast



homes, had arranged for his accommodation from Tobermory to Terra Cotta. And when unable to arrange for a Country Host home, the resourceful Cronin had enlisted the aid of friends to ensure Adams a good meal and a hospitable welcome at the end of each day's hike.

"Grace was very enthusiastic about my project and she put a great deal of time and effort into planning this walk," attested Adams. "When she couldn't find anywhere for me to stay at Cape Croker on the Bruce Peninsula, she contacted the Catholic priest there, Father McGee, and arranged for overnight accommodation."

And each act of kindness seemed to elicit more. When Adams arrived at Cape Croker Indian Reserve after an exhausting hike to enquire where he might find Father McGee, he was shocked to discover that the good Father lived some ten kilometres farther out on the Cape. An Indian family sympathizing with his predicament, took him in, made him a cup of tea and phoned Father McGee who picked him up. "My sense of well-being was restored after a supper of freshly-caught Georgian Bay whitefish and pleasant conversation," recalled Adams.

This outpouring of concern and friendship accompanied Adams throughout his walk and the people of the Bruce and Grey County are firmly entrenched in Adams' mind as the 'salt of the earth'. "The people of the Bruce Peninsula and Grey County were really wonderful to me," said Adams. "The Wiarton Echo ran a story on my walk and CFOS carried daily reports on my progress so that people knew who I was and why I was walking."

These offers of assistance often came when Adams most needed them. The hike from Kemble to Owen Sound was accomplished in an absolute downpour. Adams was slogging gamely along, feeling a little sorry for himself, when a voice from a house near the Trail called, "Are you Adams? Come along in and have some coffee." Adams was sent off much refreshed, with a \$10 donation for Radio Reading Service and the offer of a dry shirt.

At times entire villages came to his aid. The people of Kemble donated \$20, a dollar for every house in the village, and at a civic reception in Owen Sound, Mayor Ovid Jackson presented Adams with a cheque for \$100. Adams was delighted with the warm response and left the northern counties more determined than ever to complete the journey.

Occasionally he did not walk alone. The Bruce Trail Association which had assisted with his route choice also arranged to have some of its members walk portions of the Trail with Adams. Ray Lowes, Fred Sainsbury and Ida Sainsbury were among those who made the road a little easier. And the changing Escarpment scenery also helped to erase tiredness.

As far as outstanding Escarpment scenery goes, Adams felt the northern portion of the Trail was the most beautiful. "Although that section of the Trail is the roughest, it is also the most spectacular," noted Adams. "I had two gorgeous days to start my hike along the Georgian shoreline and, of course, it was a great time of the year: the flowers were magnificent—the woods were covered with trilliums, violets and columbines."

The ephemeral beauty of the Bruce's flora was indelibly printed on Adams' mind as he rested on the Escarpment overlooking Colpo's Bay. "There on a crag some three metres below the ledge I was sitting on, a columbine was growing straight out of the rock," said Adams. And he recounted coming across a whole area ablaze with the yellow hue of lady's slippers. The delicate orchids, synonymous with the Bruce Peninsula, were at the height of their spring beauty.

Adams was also impressed by the

ments and, therefore, had a basis for comparison.

It was his decision to walk the length of the British Isles from Lands End to John O'Groats in 1982 that first introduced him to the Bruce Trail. In order to prepare for the British hike that lasted 89 days and covered 1,843 kilometres, Adams walked a large portion of the Trail during the summers of '80 and '81.

Even with this considerable hiking background, Adams does not consider himself a professional hiker. He limits his daily hikes to 19 or 20 kilometres a day and travels light. He particularly appreciated this decision when encountering difficult stretches of the Trail. "It took me almost half a day to travel from the Forks of the Credit to Terra Cotta," said Adams. "There the Trail goes right up the side of the Escarpment and presents a steep climb of 182 metres." He was grateful for the rest enforced when he met a cavalcade of Brampton school children



View of Colpo's Bay

number of people he met on the Trail even during bouts of inclement weather. He met four elderly people during a torrential downpour. "Apparently, they have been doing the Trail by stages and have catalogued every flower and bird they have encountered," continued Adams.

This foursome had even catalogued a particularly sticky bog in the Beaver Valley near Duncan where they had recorded over 75 different species of plants. And, according to Adams, it is a place where the going is rough and the hiker has to step lively to prevent getting stuck knee deep in muck.

Although the Terra Cotta home of Joan Geurts was to be the last Country Host home he would stay in, Adams noted with pleasure that: "At each of the 15 homes I have been very hospitably treated and exceptionally well fed." Not a stranger to the bed and breakfast routine, Adams had stayed in over 75 British establish-

tramping along the Trail in the opposite direction.

Adams' interest in hiking grew from an earlier interest in Antarctic explorers. Stories of Scott and Amundsen travelling 1,600 kilometres through an inhospitable white wilderness, hauling 272 kilogram sleds fired his imagination and planted a lesser challenge in his mind.

By comparison Adams felt that it would be a pleasure walking the 725 kilometre Bruce Trail, buoyed by the good wishes of its inhabitants, to raise more than \$6,000 for a worthy cause.

Cuesta readers who wish more information on Radio Reading Service for a sight-impaired friend or relative should contact:

**Radio Reading Service**  
1274 Rebecca Street  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6L 1Z2

Telephone: (416) 827-4455 ■



## Raspberry House

After almost twenty-five years of wandering in the wilderness, so to speak, the 9,000 hiking members of the Bruce Trail Association now have a place to call home! And what a home it is; well worth the wait.

The Bruce Trail Association, a non-profit corporation, was formed in 1960 to undertake the construction of the 725 kilometre Bruce Trail winding along the scenic Niagara Escarpment from Queenston to Tobermory. By June of 1967 the Trail, built entirely by volunteer labour and dubbed 'Canada's Centennial Trail', was finished and open for all to enjoy.

The business of managing the Bruce Trail began simply enough. With only a handful of members the entire organization could be comfortably contained in a shoebox in the home of Ray Lowes, one of the founders of the Trail. Lowes, a dedicated volunteer nonpareil, did the

The Association hoped to have a place of their own one day and Allen Paterson, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, offered an ideal solution. Located on a hill overlooking the Gardens' magnificent Arboretum and Nature Centre, with views beyond to Cootes Paradise and the City of Hamilton, was a stately but rather run-down old farmhouse that had seen better times. In many ways it was becoming something of a burden to maintain and there was even discussion about having it demolished.

The building's sad state belied its noble history, however. It was built in 1860 by one William Raspberry, an English immigrant and successful West Flamborough Township farmer and entrepreneur. Up until the late 1940's, when first McMaster University then the Royal Botanical Gardens acquired the property, the house and its surrounding lands saw several successive generations of

cupied the house for use as a field office during the construction of Highway 403.

All this activity had taken its toll on the old building as several years of alterations and repairs saw ornate gables, verandahs and gingerbread trim disappear and the interior of the building deteriorate.

The time was ripe for something to be done: the Royal Botanical Gardens had a fine old building in need of an occupant and the Bruce Trail Association was in need of a building—an ideal situation.

Over the years a strong co-operative relationship had developed between the Association and the Gardens (a major landowner-host of the Trail in the Dundas-Flamborough area). This longstanding symbiosis flowered in 1982 with the signing of an agreement to jointly raise over \$110,000 and to restore 'Raspberry House' to serve as the permanent home for the Bruce Trail. A tall order indeed!

But in the traditional spirit of Bruce Trail volunteerism, it wasn't long before a fund-raising drive headed by Dr. Larry Chambers (a Raspberry descendant) and Ray Lowes gathered half the needed funds from generous Association and Garden members, corporations, foundations and other donors. Making good on a previous challenge and promise, the Canadian National Sportsmen's Shows contributed a whopping \$55,000 to put the project over the top.

By July 1984, Raspberry House had absorbed many hundreds of hours of contracting work—and the elbow grease of over thirty energetic Bruce Trail volunteers. The Bruce Trail Association was 'home'.

Now Bruce Trail members and other conservation and hiking groups have a focus, a place where meetings and other special events may be held, where the business of managing one of Canada's most successful volunteer hiking trails can be carried on in earnest.

The Bruce Trail and Raspberry House: two good examples of the essence of the human and natural history of the Niagara Escarpment. For more information contact:

**The Bruce Trail Association**  
**P.O. Box 857**  
**Hamilton, Ontario**  
**L8N 3N9**  
**Telephone: (416) 529-6821**



*From left to right:  
Norman James, chairman,  
Canadian National  
Sportsmen's Shows;  
John Sheppard, chairman,  
Royal Botanical Gardens;  
Ray Lowes,  
honorary president,  
Bruce Trail Association,  
at official opening of  
Raspberry House,  
October 1984.*

COURTESY  
BRUCE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

rest: writing letters, making telephone calls and organizing the local Bruce Trail Clubs that handle trail maintenance and landowner relations and hold hikes, potluck suppers and the like.

But word of the Bruce Trail and the natural beauty of its Escarpment surroundings spread and soon a growing membership and the Association's expanding work in land acquisition and conservation education necessitated moves to larger quarters. Thanks to the corporate generosity of Lowes' employer at the time, Stelco Ltd., and the Royal Botanical Gardens, office space was made available.

Rasberrys off into the world. Some 300 descendants of William Raspberry live in southern Ontario today and many took a keen interest in what quickly became a once-in-a-lifetime chance to revive a piece of their family history. Some of the historic photos, diaries and other documents collected to date reveal a fascinating tale of early rural life in the Dundas Valley area.

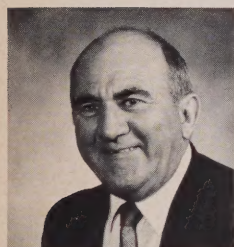
By 1982, the old house had long since ceased to echo to the sounds of busy family life, having been put to a series of uses involving the Garden's plant propagation and arboretum maintenance work. The provincial Ministry of Transportation and Communications even oc-



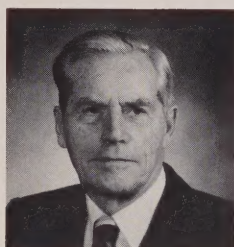
# Niagara Escarpment Commission

The Niagara Escarpment Commission is responsible for the development and production of a plan for the maintenance of the 725 kilometre Niagara Escarpment. The Commission consists of 17 members: eight members representing the public-at-large, eight members who are either members or employees of Escarpment area county or regional councils, in addition to a chairman. Ivor McMullin is the current chairman.

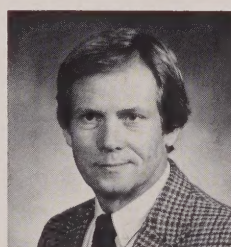
## *Representing Regions and Counties*



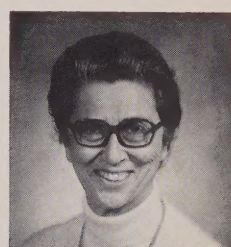
*William Longo  
Niagara Region*



*Robert McNairn  
Hamilton-Wentworth Region*



*Robert Bateman*



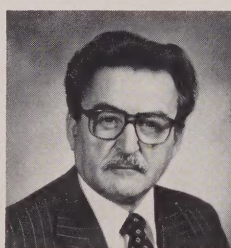
*Maryon Brechin*



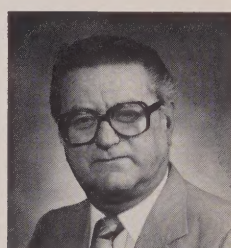
*Dave Whiting  
Halton Region*



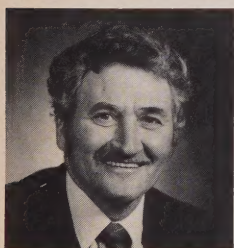
*William Hunter  
Peel Region*



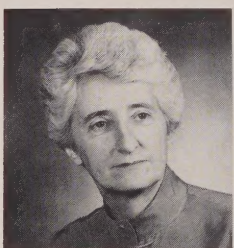
*Leo Bruzzese*



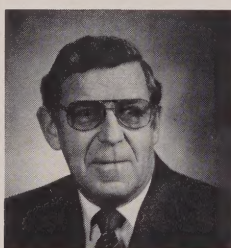
*Robert Rutherford*



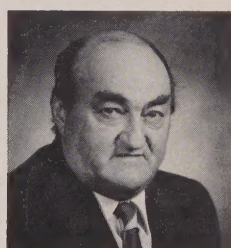
*Paul Gallagher  
Dufferin County*



*Carol Schnurr  
Simcoe County*



*Robert Keast*



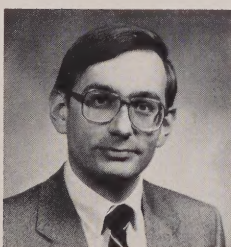
*Milton Hayes*



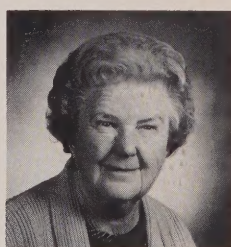
*David McNichol  
Grey County*



*Bernice Limpert  
Bruce County*



*Larry Haskell*



*Anne MacArthur*



